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EASTERN

F.O.
371

1947

PALESTINE

File No. 651

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Reference:

FO

371

61870

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UNTIL
1978

61870

E

E 651

20 JAN

PALESTINE

Legal Immigration Quota

Registry Number

E 651/651/31

FROM

B. O. G. A.

No.

Command.

Dated

Received in Registry

20 Jan 1947

Confolk to Bencomb CCLB/G/317 of Jan 19, Discusses present situation with regard to issue of Immigration certificates for Palestine to Jewish DP's in British Zone of Germany.

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

References.

In P.P. CCLB/G/317 Jan 13

Mr Beatty #13-20/1

Refugee Dept. #25/1

Cerman Dept. #25/1

15 Jan 20

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

61870

(Action completed.)

4/6/48

(Index)

16/8/48

Next Paper.

1116

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Reference:

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WR.

enter WR 3

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CONTROL OFFICE FOR GERMANY AND AUSTRIA 23

DPO:IC1745Z

FROM: CONFOLK (CONTROL OFFICE LONDON)
TO: BERCOMB (CONTROL COMMISSION BERLIN)
INFO: CONCOMB (CONTROL COMMISSION LUBBECKE)
CCLB/G/317 10 JAN 47

E 651
20 JAN

Your BGCC 17583 regarding issue of immigration certificates for Palestine to Jewish DPs in British Zone of Germany. The situation has developed and is now as follows:

2. 750 certificates are available each month for Jews in Europe. Of these 375 will be allotted to those who have relatives in Palestine and whose applications are registered with Palestine Commissioner of Immigration. Understood that there are comparatively few Jewish DPs in British Zone so registered but these will receive certificates in their turn under this quota.

3. Remaining 375 certificates are available each month for Jewish DPs in British Zone of Germany. This quota starts from 15 JAN 47. In addition a total of 360 certificates is available for Jewish DPs in British Zone to cover period 15 NOV to 15 JAN. No certificates are lost through lapse of time and these are therefore available for issue.

4. Both quotas of 375 may be subject to small reductions in some months if certificates have to be given to other Jews with special claims e.g. demobilised soldiers.

5. Nominations for certificates under para 2 above will be made from Palestine and Control Commission will not be involved in regard to those allotted to persons in British Zone

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British Zone except for the issue of travel documents and exit permits. Certificates available under para 3 above will however be allotted by Passport Control Officer Berlin on recommendation of Control Commission.

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With regard to selection of Jewish DPs agree Jewish Agency should assist in this task and we are informed that they have two representatives at Hohne namely CHAIM HOFFMAN and KURT LEWIN who are available for this purpose. It is to be hoped that they will make use of services of J.R.U. who are fully acquainted with Jewish DP population. Jewish Agency representatives would act under instructions issued by Control Commission in regard to priorities and we should hope you would find it possible to make a proportional check of their recommendations so as to be sure they are carrying out these instructions. Certificates should be confined to genuine registered displaced persons and priorities should be those contained in Anglo-American Report on Palestine which recommended the following order:

1. Those already receiving DP care on 1 OCT 45 with first priority to concentration camp survivors
2. Those who began to receive DP care between OCT 45 and 1 MAY 46
3. The remainder.

Within each group priority to be given to skilled workmen in building and agricultural trades, children under 12, persons permanently incapacitated and persons over 60 years of age. These persons would all be accompanied by their immediate families and priorities must therefore be sufficiently flexible to avoid breaking up these families.

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7. The actual certificates will be obtained in blank form by P.C.O. from Commissioner for Immigration in Palestine. It will also be necessary for him to consult Palestine Government on whether latter wishes any of names recommended to be referred to it before certificate is issued. It is to be hoped any such reference would be kept to minimum. Finally P.C.O. will forward to Palestine Government copy of particulars concerning each approved applicant so that they have information available to check identity when DP reaches Palestine.

8. In addition to certificates Jewish emigrants should be provided with individual travel documents on which exit permits and visas will be stamped.

9. HMG accepts no responsibility for movement of DPs and this will presumably be arranged by Jewish Agency.

10. We feel it would be most useful if before machinery is put into motion you would discuss it with Jewish Adviser Col SOLOMON particularly in relation to checking of Jewish Agency recommendations. Col Solomon would be glad to visit Berlin and Zone for this purpose and would propose to come out to Berlin on 21 JAN if this is convenient. Please cable urgently if you agree. If you wish to include Jewish Agency representatives in discussions at that stage no doubt you will arrange for them to be available.

IMPORTANT

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Mr Burrows - German Dept
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War Office

Major Mars (room 055)

10 JAN 47
EM/TJS

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already covered w.r. J.E. PG 5
(21)
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CONTROL OFFICE FOR GERMANY AND AUSTRIA

From: CONFOLK(Control Office London) DTO: 131700Z
To : BERCOMB(Control Commission Berlin)
Info: CONCOMB(Control Commission Lubbecke)

CCLB/G/317 13 Jan 47 CONFIDENTIAL

1. Our telegram of above reference dated 10 Jan regarding issue of immigration certificates for Palestine to Jewish DP's very much regret having to revise information given in above telegram so soon after despatch but a point has just been raised by Palestine Government which may affect monthly allocation of 375 certificates to DP's from 15 Jan onwards. We shall of course do all we can to prevent reduction of this allocation but it is necessary you should not take any action in respect of it until you hear further from us. The delay does not affect backlog of 360 certificates for period 15 Nov - 15 Jan and there is therefore every reason to proceed with establishment of machinery for issue of these which can be used for the monthly quotas when definitely fixed.

2. Colonel SOLOMON may have to postpone his visit to Berlin by a few days but we should be glad to know early that you wish him to come.

IMMEDIATE

/Distribution....

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13 Jan 47
BCT/AFR

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E 1116 6

1947

PALESTINE

5 FEB 1947

Registry Number } E 1116/651/31.

TELEGRAM FROM

W Blutton

No. *Belgrade*

Dated *174*

Received in Registry } *1 Feb 1947*
5 Feb 1947

DOMINANY Family.

Pass to Jerusalem
would be grateful for instructions in
the particular case of the Domany
Family.

Last Paper.

657

(Minutes.)

Discussed for the... of... them
is... to... this

References.

copy V.O. Feb 1947
Southern Dept.

H.B. 10/2

(Print.)

(How disposed of)

1-6.0.
Feb 17

(Action completed.)

J.E. 116 20/2

(Index.)

[Signature]
10/18

Next Paper.

2571

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En Clair *no KCP pp 2E* REPETITIONS. *JKP 7*
C FROM BELGRADE TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Clutton. D. 12.32 p.m. 3rd February 1947.
No. 174 R. 1.20 p.m. 3rd February 1947.

1st. February 1947.

pp v v v

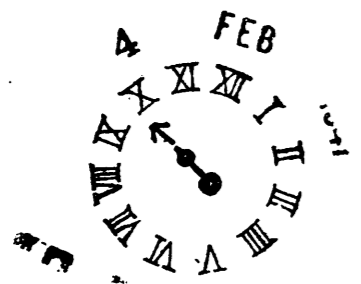
Please pass following to High Commissioner
at Jerusalem.

E 1116
5 FEB

His Majesty's Consul's despatch of December
10th to Director of Department of Immigration about
Domany family.

I should be grateful for your instructions
in this particular case and in connexion with the
ultimate paragraph of the letter under reference.

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial
Office for transmission to Jerusalem].



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11

E

E 3741
6 MAY

8

1947

Registry Number

ESY44/651/31

FROM

FO

No.

bound.

Dated

Received in Registry

30 Apr 1947
6 May -

Legal Emigration Quota.
Inasmuch copy of letter from Mr. Brock Jones to Lord Pakenham, enclosing copy of letter from American Joint Distribution Committee, re British Zone of Austria, regarding that certain number of available certificates should in future be allotted to Jewish D.P.s resident in Austria.

Last Paper.

PS-0

References.

(Minutes.)
Cerman Dept. } first for any obs.
Refugee Dept. }
H.C. Bent
May 8

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

I apologise for delaying this. There would seem to be no ^{good} reason why the British Zone of Austria should not be ~~included~~ granted a proportion of the certificates ~~now~~ now available to the British Zone in Germany. I think, however, that unless ~~Minister~~ this has already been decided by Ministers who, I understand, are now considering this question Zonal General Dept would also like to comment on this. J.H.W. 8/5

(Action completed)

G.L.B. 7/6

(Index)

16/8/48

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This point has been brought to our attention on more than one occasion, notably by Mr. Beauchamp MP who commented upon this apparent discrimination after his return from Austria and Germany with the Parliamentary Delegation. As we are always urging that priority in resettlement should be given to d.p.s from Austria, it would seem to be only just that Jews in Austria should have an opportunity to go to Palestine legally.

AWH Wilkinson ^{22/5}
AWH WILKINSON

The Colonial Secretary recently wrote to Lord Pakenham about this, asking what reply he could return to the AJSC representative in Austria, who had asked for an allocation ^{in the B.M. zone of} visas for Palestine. I explained to Mr Anderson that G. Dept. were not concerned with the allocation as between Germany & Austria.

Mr M. Anderson

JB May 28

Action is going forward in

German Refugee Dept's file. Sp. 8. 11/4.

Each first the Chancellors of the Duchy are discussing the matter at 8.30 today

but not

16/6

at 12:15 June 16

JB.

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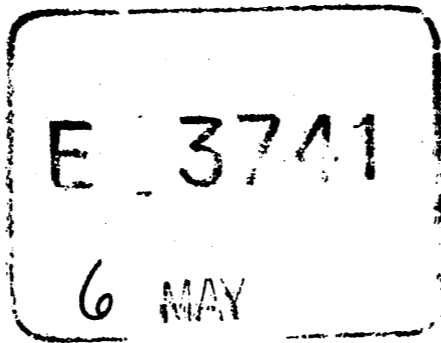
Entered
Eastern Dept.

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COLONIAL OFFICE,
DOWNING STREET, S.W.1.



With the Compliments of the
Secretary of State for the Colonies.



30th April, 1947.

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Reference:

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371 / 61870

CONFIDENTIAL.

30th April, 1947.

75113/95/47 Palestine.

10

In correspondence with your predecessor last year on the subject of the allocation of immigration certificates to Jewish Displaced Persons under British care, I suggested in my letter of 29th October, 1946, that Hynd would probably wish to confine the distribution of certificates in the first instance to the Displaced Persons in the British zone in Germany and would not for the time being wish to extend the facility to those in the British zone of Austria. In his letter of 9th November, Hynd agreed that this was his intention and considered that the need of the Jews in the Austrian zone was not so urgent as that of the Jews in the German zone. Accordingly the machinery for selecting and despatching the immigrants was set up in the German zone only and all certificates available up to date (amounting to some 1200 to mid-April) have been allotted for Displaced Persons resident there.

I have now received a letter from the American Joint Distribution Committee representative in the British zone of Austria, a copy of which I enclose for your information, requesting that a certain proportion of the available certificates should in future be allotted to Jewish Displaced Persons resident in Austria. I should be grateful for your observations on the request and on the possibility of going some way towards meeting it. If your decision is to confine distribution to Germany, I should be grateful for your suggestions on the line I should take in replying to the American Joint Distribution Committee.

I am sorry that I have to add that, if the request is granted and the Austrian zone allotted a certain proportion of the certificates, no overall increase in the number of certificates made available each month for distribution to Jewish Displaced Persons can in present circumstances be expected.

A

The Lord Pakenham.

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A further point in this connection has been raised by the Jewish Agency in Palestine. The High Commissioner informs that a request has been made to him by the Jewish Agency that all the certificates assigned to Displaced Persons in Germany from the next monthly immigration quota should be allotted to the Displaced Persons in the American zone on the grounds that these have so far received no share and, of course, greatly out-number those in the British zone. I propose, if you agree, to suggest to the High Commissioner that he might reply to the Jewish Agency to the effect that since the numbers of certificates available for this purpose at the present time is so small, their distribution should be confined for the time being to the British zone of Germany where the administrative machine for their distribution is in existence, with a possible extension to the British zone of Austria; and that he might point out that the certificates allocated by the Migration Department direct to persons registered on the Palestine Government's list will of course continue to be distributed to priority immigrants as before, regardless of zone or country of residence in Europe.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Minister of State, as it is not impossible that the authorities responsible for the American zones of Germany and Austria may be moved by the Jewish Agency to initiate diplomatic representations on this subject.

(sgd) A. Creech Jones.

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AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE
BRITISH ZONE AUSTRIA

c/o HQ CIVIL AFFAIRS B.E.
LAND STEIERMARK C.M.F.

Graz, 26th March 1947.

Rt. Hon.
A. Creech Jones, M.P.,
Colonial Secretary,
Colonial Office,
London.

Dear Mr. Creech Jones,

Re: Allocation of Palestine Certificates
for Jewish Displaced Persons

The purpose of this letter is to explain more fully our military signal of the 24th inst., a copy of which is enclosed. We sincerely request that you give your earliest possible consideration to this application made on behalf of 2,500 Jewish Displaced Persons in the British Zone of Austria.

Of the many thousands of Jewish Displaced Persons resident in this zone shortly after liberation in 1945, several hundreds still remain. Most of these form part of the Admont DP Camp population of approximately 1,350. A further 50 are living privately in the area of Graz. The remaining Jewish DP-s who have been living here since July 1946, are resident in the Admont, St. Marein and Hafendorf DP Camps.

This total group can, with reasonable accuracy, be described as stable and not transient. The majority are members of small family groups whose single hope is the opportunity of legal emigration in the near future. As is well know, the emigration goal for the overwhelming majority is Palestine.

It is not our intention to mention here in detail the present day tragedy of the lives of these people. It is sufficient to say that there is amongst them widespread demoralization and despondency; both states of mind which are all too rarely alleviated.

It was, therefore, the happiest of days when we learnt that several hundred certificates had been granted for the British Zone of Germany, and that this was to be a regular practice. We say "happiest" because it was immediately assumed by every single Jewish person here, that Austria would automatically be granted a quota however small, it being fully realized that such an allocation would have, at least, to be compatible with the respective Jewish populations of the British Zones of Austria and Germany. It is, however, some weeks since the certificates were allocated to Germany and apart from a telegram from Jerusalem, stating that this allocation was exclusive to the British Zone of Germany, there has been no news, neither positive, nor negative, concerning the British zone of Austria.

The temporary alleviation of the general state of demoralization among the people here is passing almost as swiftly as it came. Indeed, despondency might even be more acute, since to the Jewish DP-s here the absence of any authoritative statement concerning their future, is to them further proof that they are not considered important enough to warrant special consideration by His Majesty's Government. The question is asked: why only the British Zone of Germany? Obvious answers are first the much greater Jewish population, and second, the opinion that Jewish DP population of Austria is a transient population. This opinion cannot be substantiated in the case of the British Zone of Austria where there has been no appreciable Jewish DP movement for approximately one year

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year. And notwithstanding the validity of the first answer, this is still no good reason why this zone should not be allocated a number of certificates, on the basis of its population ratio to the British Zone of Germany.

We have worked extremely closely with the Jewish DP problem in this zone since November 1945. We, too, have waited for the day when something positive, however small, could be done to lighten the load of suffering so manifest among the people whom we represent. It seems to us now that there is a golden opportunity to achieve both a material and symbolic success. Material because, however few certificates are allocated, they will at least enable some people to emigrate. Symbolic, because it will keep alive the hopes of so many here, particularly those who have already spent two severe winters in DP camps. The effect upon morale of let us say an allocation of 50 certificates per month would be incalculably high.

We beseech you to listen sympathetically to the small voice of a small group waiting still patiently for the type of assistance that only you can bestow.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) H. Yantian.

Hyman Yantian, Director,
AJDC British Zone Austria.

encl.

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COPY

From: AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE
C/O HQ CIVIL AFFAIR B.E.
LAND STEIERMARK CMF.

24 MARCH
15h

To: COLONIAL SECRETARY
COLONIAL OFFICE LONDON.

AJDC 67 /./ UNCLASSIFIED /./ ON BEHALF TWENTYFIVE
HUNDRED JEWISH DISPLACED PERSONS BRITISH ZONE AUSTRIA
APPRECIATE DEFINITE STATEMENT REFERENCE POSSIBILITY
ALLOCATION PALESTINE CERTIFICATES TO THIS ZONE STOP
WIDESPREAD BEWILDERMENT THAT PRESENT ALLOCATION ONLY
FOR BRITISH ZONE GERMANY STOP MANY HUNDREDS DISPLACED
HERE SINCE LIBERATION STOP URGENTLY REQUEST YOUR
CONSIDERATION

AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE GRAZ

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13

E 5305

1947

PALESTINE

21 JUN

Registry Number

E 5305/57/51

FROM

Chancery

No.

Washington

Dated

86/-/47

Received in Registry

11 June 21

Legal Immigration, "Children to Palestine"
has been asked by Mr. Henry [unclear] of
the "Council for the Children of Europe"
that six hundred Jewish children from Europe
may be legally admitted to Palestine each month.
Question is connected with "Children to
Palestine" movement, asks guidance per reply.

Last Paper.

4670

(Minutes.)

Letter to C.O.

References.

h.v. 30/6

H.B. 24/6

Letter to W. [unclear]

H.B. 28/6

(Print.)

In P.P. W.A.B. Abathman to M. Bealey 26/6

(How disposed of.)

2 ft) Abathman
80.

✓ June 24

H.B. 11/7

Opt. Chancery

W. [unclear] (open)

✓ Turkey 1

In P.P. Chancery W. [unclear] 84/114/47 8/7

This has crossed our letter.

H.B. 15/7

(Action completed.)

[Signature]

(Index.)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61870

BRITISH EMBASSY.

WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

16th June 1947

Ref: 84/ /47

Dear Department,

We have been asked by Mrs. Barry Bingham of the "Courier-Journal", Louisville, to let her know whether it is a fact that six hundred Jewish children from Europe may be legally admitted to Palestine each month.

The question has arisen in connection with a movement called "Children to Palestine" which Mrs. Bingham has been asked to assist. The Executive Director of "Children to Palestine" has told Mrs. Bingham that six hundred Jewish children may enter Palestine legally every month under the present British quota. Before rendering help to the Committee Mrs. Bingham has sought our confirmation of this figure. Would you very kindly advise us on a reply? It seems unlikely that the present quota of 1,500 a month is in fact broken down as between adults and children, but before replying we will be grateful for your views.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

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OUT FILE

15

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

24th June, 1947.

E 5365/651/31

My dear Mathieson,

I enclose a copy of a letter from Washington, passing on an enquiry from Mrs. Bingham of the Louisville "Courier-Journal".

Mrs. Bingham has written intelligent and helpful articles on the Palestine question in her newspaper, and we should like to send her a reasonably quick answer. Could you let me know what should be said?

(Signed) H. BEELEY

W. A. V. Mathieson, Esq.,
COLONIAL OFFICE.

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Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

75113/95/47.

5365 651 | 31

26th June, 1947.

INDEXED

My dear Beeley,

You sent me on the 24th June a copy of a letter from Washington passing on an enquiry from Mrs. Bingham of the Louisville "Courier-Journal", enquiring about a report that 600 Jewish children may enter Palestine legally every month under the present British quota.

It is not impossible that 600 Jewish children do in fact enter Palestine every month under the legal quota of 1,500, but there is no provision made in the machinery for distributing these certificates for the block grant ~~of~~ any specific organisation of 600 for children.

It may help the Embassy to answer Mrs. Bingham's enquiry if I set out briefly the way in which the current quota is at present allocated.

750 certificates every month are allotted to Jewish immigrants in the camps in Cyprus. The immigrants there are selected on the basis of "first in first out", and are kept, as far as possible, in family groups. The selection is done in consultation with officials of the Jewish Agency and a representative committee established by the immigrants themselves. Of the balance of 750, approximately 100 are required each month by the Palestine Government to meet statutory obligations. These obligations are mainly connected with the admission to Palestine of persons who enlisted in Palestine in

H. BEELEY, ESQ., C.B.E.

/the

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the allied forces during the war and at the time of their enlistment had not been legally registered as immigrants. The provision also extends to the wives and minor children of these returning soldiers. The remainder, namely some 650 certificates, are divided equally between the following two categories:-

- (a) the close ^{relatives} residents in Europe of Palestinian residents whose applications have been registered with the Commissioner for Migration in Jerusalem. Selection of these immigrants is made by the Commissioner for Migration and is based primarily on the length of time for which applications have been outstanding, but is governed to some extent by humanitarian considerations and the desire to re-unite families;
- (b) displaced persons from the Assembly Centres in the British zone of Germany. The latter are selected by a committee set up by the Control Commission, on whom the Jewish Agency and Jewish relief organisations are represented. This selection is vetted by the immigration authorities in Palestine. The principle of selection is that, as far as possible, family groups, whose maintenance in Palestine is assured, are sent together and efforts are made to ensure that each batch of immigrants is well balanced and easily assimilable into the economy of Palestine.

From the above you will see that the movement called "Children to Palestine" cannot under the present machinery have any allocation of the 600 certificates to be used exclusively for children. The existing arrangements do, however, permit the entry to Palestine of a substantial number of children each month.

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17A

I enclose an additional copy of this letter as it may be more convenient for you to send on direct to Washington.

Your ever,

W.H. Patterson

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Reference:-

FO 371 / 61870

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3149 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

Registry
No. *E5365/651/31*

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open

*Draft. letter to
Shannon,
Washington*

[attached]

*By [unclear] sent
to [unclear] 1/16
[unclear] in [unclear]
to [unclear] at [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] 1/17*

OUT FILE

27a

121-July 18

Dear Shannon,

*With reference to your
letter no. 84/147 of the
16th June, regarding an
enquiry by Mrs. Bingham
on the subject of Jewish
immigration to Palestine, we
enclose a copy of a letter from
the Colonial Office containing
the information you require*

Yours ever,

Eastern Dept 243.267/6

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OUT FILE Y6A

FOREIGN OFFICE,
S.W.1.
1st July, 1947.

(E.5365/651/31)

Dear Chancery,

With reference to your letter
No. 84/ /47 of the 16th June,
reporting an enquiry by Mrs.
Bingham on the subject of Jewish
immigration to Palestine, we
enclose a copy of a letter from
the Colonial Office containing
the information you require.

Yours ever,
EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Washington.

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Reference:-

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371

61870

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5365 65/ 71-

Ref. 84/114/47

BRITISH EMBASSY,

WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

July 8th, 1947

INDEXED

Dear Department,

We would be grateful if you could let us have a reply to our letter of the 16th June about the numbers of immigrant Jewish children allowed into Palestine, a subject about which we have been approached by Mrs. Barry Bingham of the "Courier-Journal", Louisville. We would like to let her have a reply as soon as possible.

Yours ever,
J.H.
CHANCERY

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO

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18

1947

E

PALESTINE

E 5397

23 JUN

20

Registry Number

E 5397/651/31

FROM

F.P. Minute

No.

Dated

18 June

Received in Registry

23 -

Legal Jewish Immigration Quota.
Committee meeting held today with suggestion
for increasing number of immigration
certificates allotted to A.P. camp Jews
in British Zone of Germany.
Few points discussed.

Last Paper.

5-365-

(Minutes.)

References.

H.B. 24/6

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed)

J.C.M. 26/6

(Index)

[Signature] 14/7/47

Next Paper.

5645

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	1	1	1	1

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Reference:

FO

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E 5397

enter 21

23 JUN

A Meeting was held in the Secretary of State's Room at the Foreign Office on Monday 16th June, at which the following were present:

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
Secretary of State for the Colonies
The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Sir Gilmour Jenkins, KBE., CB., MC.,

In attendance:

Mr. J.C.S. Beith, Foreign Office
Mr. J.W.L. Ivley, Foreign Office
Mr. Trafford-Elton, Colonial Office
Mr. W.A.C. Matheson, Colonial Office.

Mr. Bevin opened the Meeting by referring to a memo which had been received from the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster proposing an increase in the number of immigration certificates allotted to Jews in the P.P. camps in the British Zone of Germany. He reminded the Meeting that there had been previous discussions on this subject which appeared to be one incapable of settlement satisfactory to all parties.

Mr. Creech Jones said that the 750 certificates which had been allotted to Cyprus Jews was a firm commitment which for security and other reasons could not now be revoked. There were also some 100 odd certificates reserved for ex-servicemen and their families which could not be interfered with. This left the remainder to be distributed between the Jews in the P.P. camps and those on the High Commissioner's list who were deserving cases of relatives and others of Jews in Palestine who had been waiting a long time.

Mr. Matheson observed that the High Commissioner's list included a number of Jews in the P.P. camps, though the number in the British Zone would not be as great as those in the American Zone on account of the disparity in the totals in each Zone.

Lord Pakenham said we were particularly anxious to help the P.P. in Austria, to whom hitherto we had been unable to give any allocation and he strongly hoped that a number of certificates might be made available for them. He mentioned that he had had a visit that morning from Mr. Sydney Silverman, K.P., who was the Chairman of the World Jewish Congress, and who had informed him that it was important to his Organisation whether the Jews selected for immigration to Palestine came from Cyprus or from Europe.

Sir Gilmour Jenkins hoped that a more even balance might be provided by increasing the commitment for the P.P. at the expense of the Cyprus Jews who, being illegal immigrants did not have the same right to preferential treatment.

Mr. Bevin recalled the circumstances under which the allocation to Cyprus had been made in order to provide a safety valve for the dangerous situation which was boiling up there. He ruled out any possibility of an increase in the overall allocation of 1,500 certificates, which could only lead to a situation fraught with the utmost dangers.

In conclusion, no agreement was reached for an alteration in the

present system of allocation.

German Refugee Dept. F.O.

18th June 1947.

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	1			2	

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Reference: FO 371 / 61870

19

E

E 5645

22

1947

PALESTINE

30 JUN

Registry Number

E 5645/651/4.

FROM

A. L. Mac Gillivray.

No.

Palestine.

Dated

6/11/47.

Received in Registry

20 June
30 -

Jewish Immigration Quota.

Given 10,400 as number of Jews to be admitted in 1947 without disturbing ratio. Allowed 10,400 over 10 years for year 1947. Suggest gradual fall annually from 10,400, 1947 to 9,250 in 1955 or proposed quota for next ten years to maintain ratio.

Last Paper.

5-297

(Minutes.)

An important calculation.

References.

See also marked passage

H. Beely 1/2
Wm 2/7

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

[Signature]

(Index.)

[Signature]
19/8/48

Next Paper.

615-6

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E 5645
SECRET

E. Entor
CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE, 23
JERUSALEM,
PALESTINE.

20th June, 1947.

Dear Beeley

I am sorry there has been delay in sending you the figure for which you asked me in New York of the maximum number of Jews who could be admitted to Palestine during 1947 without disturbing the actual ratio between the Arab and Jewish populations on the 1st January 1947 and also, so far as can be estimated, the number which would have to be admitted each year during the ten year period beginning 1st January 1948 in order to maintain that ratio throughout that period, account being taken of the higher rate of Arab natural increase.

If the experience of the year 1946 is taken as an indication of the rate of natural increase for the whole year 1947 the ratio of the Jewish population to the total population at the end of the year would remain unchanged if 10,400 Jewish immigrants were admitted.

I am not giving you the figures for subsequent years since, as Loftus has explained to me, much depends on the rate of natural increase of the Jews and that in its turn depends on unknown factors such as the age-groups of future immigrants. In general, however, there should be a gradual fall annually from the figure of 10,400 for 1947 reaching perhaps 9,250 in 1955.

H. Beeley Esq., C.B.E.,
The Foreign Office,
London.

P.T.O.

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23A

RECEIVED IN O.B.
27 JUN 1947
SENT TO DEPT.
30 JUN 1947

We are having our lighter moments here. The Netherlands' delegate fell into the tomb of Nicodemus on Wednesday and, unfortunately, caused himself some damage, sufficient to keep him in bed for a few days.

Yours ever

Donald MacGillivray

(D.C. MacGillivray).

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E

E 6156

24

PALESTINE

12 JUL

Registry Number E 6156/31

FROM

No.

Dated 7/13/47

Received in Registry

12

Transfer of children from Cyprus to Palestine.

Transmit copy of minute from Mr. Knock
to the Prime Minister of 8 July
relating the relative was approached by Jewish Agency
and proposed to allow some 2,000 children into
Palestine from Cyprus. His approval of children
would be deducted from monthly quota.

Last Paper.

5641

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

[Signature]

(Index.)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

E 6450

(Minutes.)

H.B. 14/7

In P.P. P'ntal tel 1259 1/7
" " " 1307 10/7
P.O. tel 1507 1/7

H.B. 15/7

In P.P. P'ntal tel 1520 8/8

H.B. 13/8

In P.P. P'ntal tel 1527 9/8

[Signature] 15/8

In P.P. P.O. tel 1803 11/8

- - Cyprus 431 12/8

P'ntal 1549 12/8

- - " 1548 12/8

- Cyprus 433 12/8

- P'ntal 1550 12/8

- Cyprus 435 13/8

[Signature] 16/8

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61870

In P.P. P'stine tel 1612 27/8

24A

16 Aug 27

In P.P. P'stine tel 1636 27/8

- bypass tel 466 28/8

30/8

- Potential tel 1627 26/8

1/9

- P'stine tel 1654 21/8

2/9

In P.P. bypass tel 479 1/9

- P'stine tel 1667-A 2/9

HB 5/9

In P.P. bypass tel 484 4/9

HB 6/9

In P.P. bypass tel 483 4/9

- P'stine tel 1686 6/9

- - - 1680 4/9

10/9

In P.P. P'stine tel 1708 10/9

HB 12/9

In P.P. B0 tel 2148 11/9

- - bypass tel 488 2/9

17/9

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E
Encl 25
COLONIAL OFFICE,

DOWNING STREET, S.W.1.

1. S.O.S.

2. Sir H. Butler

3. Eastern Dept.

PK 9/7.

With the Compliments of the
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

E 6156

10-12-47
Mr. Butler
700
8th July, 1947

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7511/95/1/47 Palestine.

26

PRIME MINISTER.

The High Commissioner for Palestine has been approached by the Jewish Agency with a proposal that some 2,000 Jewish children, aged from 6 to 17, now in the camps in Cyprus, should be admitted to Palestine forthwith and placed in the charge of Youth Aliyah, the Zionist organization whose special function it is to arrange for the immigration into Palestine and subsequent care of Jewish children. Children so admitted would be deducted from the monthly immigration quota as their turn came round, and only orphans or those children whose parents are prepared to make a written application for them to be taken over by the Youth Aliyah would be eligible for admission under the scheme. It is probable that most of the children are orphans.

2. Adoption of this plan would, of course, be greatly to the children's advantage and it would also reduce the cost of the Cyprus camps and release valuable accommodation there. The move will be effected quietly and in no provocative way and, in view of the ultimate deduction of these children from the quota, the High Commissioner is of the opinion that Arab reaction should not be sharp. He has, therefore, recommended the adoption of the scheme to the extent of the admission of 500 children in the first instance, with the possibility of extension up to 2,000 if no difficulties are experienced.

3. I propose, if you agree, to authorize the High Commissioner to make arrangements accordingly with the Governor of Cyprus.

4. I am sending a copy of this minute to the Foreign Secretary.

(sgd) A. CREECH JONES.

8th July, 1947.

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FOREIGN SECRETARY

27



10, DOWNING STREET,
WHITEHALL,

S/S
E. Dept *JA 10/7*
COPY OF MINUTE BY THE PRIME MINISTER.

Reference: Minute to the Prime Minister from
the Secretary of State for Colonial Affairs
about the transferring of 2,000 Jewish
children in camps in Cyprus to Palestine.
Dated 8th July, 1947.

attached
bo
"I agree

C.R.A.

8.7.47."

A.C.
9.7.47

Copy also sent to:

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COLONIAL AFFAIRS

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Reference:

FO

371

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28A

effected quietly and in no provocative way, and in view of ultimate deduction from the quota and its humanitarian nature, I do not consider that the reaction would be sharp. On further deliberation, therefore, I recommend the adoption of the scheme to the extent of the admission of 500 children in the first instance until we see how it works. If you agree, I will arrange accordingly with the Governor of Cyprus.

Copy sent to:-

Foreign Office - Mr. C.W. Baxter.

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E 6116	651	21
INWARD TELEGRAM		

29
Put with
R

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham) 14/7

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 10th July, 1947.

R. 10th " " 19.55 hrs.

INDEXED

IMMEDIATE

No. 1307 Secret.

Addressed to S. of S.
Repeated to Gov. Cyprus, No. 128.

My telegram No. 1259.

Jewish immigrant children from Cyprus.

As matter is of some urgency I propose to proceed at once with arrangements and, if Governor of Cyprus agrees, to effect the move of 500 children as soon as possible. I shall make local announcement of forthcoming move on Saturday 12th July unless I hear from you to the contrary by noon that day.

2. My telegram No. 1259 has now been repeated to Cyprus as No. 127.

Copy sent to:-

Foreign Office -- Mr. C.W. Baxter

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM

30

*Put with
Ref
V 146*

75113/95/1/47
Cypher (O. T. P.)

E 656 / 651 / ?1
14 JUL 1947

TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

FROM S. OF S., COLONIES.

Sent 11th July, 1947. 16.00 hrs.

INDEXED

IMMEDIATE

No. 1507 Secret.

Addressed High Commissioner, Jerusalem.
Repeated Governor, Cyprus, No. 330.

Your telegrams Nos. 1259 and 1307 repeated to
Governor Cyprus as No. 127 and No. 128.

Jewish immigrant children from Cyprus.

I agree to admission of 500 children as soon as
possible under the arrangements outlined in your telegram
No. 1259. You will no doubt inform me whether in the light
of experience you recommend the admission of further children
under the same scheme. I assume that in the first instance all
children will be orphans.

2. I am arranging for Goodman of Agudas Israel to be
informed that you have now found it possible to adopt his
scheme in part under arrangements made by Youth Aliyah.

3. I approve local announcement of move on Saturday
12th July. Announcement will no doubt be worded so as to
minimise the risk of Arab reaction. Presume that you will
telegraph text to Governor, Cyprus.

Copy sent to:-

Foreign Office

- Mr. C.W. Baxter.

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E6156 / 651 / 31

13 AUG 1947
INWARD TELEGRAM

INDEXED

Code

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)
TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 8th August, 1947.
R. 8th " " 22.15 hrs.

No. 1520.

Addressed to S. of S.
Repeated " Gov. Cyprus No. 158.

Your telegram No. 1507.

Admission to Palestine of Jewish
orphans in Cyprus detention camps.

I understand that total number of
children in detention in Cyprus who are full
orphans is (7985).^{*} I am informing the
Jewish Agency that I am agreeable to transfer
of further 485 on the same conditions as the
original 500.

^{*} Correction is being obtained.

Copies sent to:-
Foreign Office - Mr. O. W. Baxter.

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EWSG/657/21

INDEXED

Enter
K 32

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Cypher

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 9th August, 1947.
R. 10th " " 22.10 hrs.

No. 1527 Secret.

Addressed to C. in C. Mediterranean, No. 1128.
Repeated to Cyprus, No. 160.
" " S. of S.

Your telegram No. 311922.

Safety of transports.

1. I agree that as a general rule transports should not (repeat not) be used in the present circumstances for carrying illegal immigrants from Cyprus to Palestine. I have so informed the Jewish Agency, and have invited it to make suggestions for provision by Agency charter of non-Governmental shipping.

2. There arises, however, question of transport from Cyprus of 500 orphan children for whose entry into Palestine I have already given permission. Ages of these children range from 6 to 17 years. They would probably be accompanied by about 20 adult Jewish leaders and supervisors.

3. I am most anxious on humanitarian grounds that these children should be admitted to Palestine as soon as possible, and I feel therefore that we should accept the risk. I should add that if we do use our own ships it will be made abundantly clear to the Jewish Agency that we regard it as their responsibility in this instance particularly to ensure that there shall be no sabotage.

4. I trust that you will concur.

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM

76021/58/47

E 6156 / 617 / 31

pw 33
E

En Clair

TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)
FROM S. OF S. COLONIES.

Sent 11th August, 1947. 18. 30 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 1803.

Addressed High Commissioner for
Palestine.
Repeated Governor Cyprus No. 408.

Illegal Immigration.

Reuters carries report today that
after orphans from Cyprus reach Palestine
no more British ships will be used to bring
Jews from Cyprus under the quota and that in
future they will be transported in ships hired
by Jewish Agency. Report attributed to Government
spokesman.

Request your early observations as
matter is subject of Press enquiry here.

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"

Ministry of Defence

"

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M. I. 5.

Ministry of Transport

Foreign Office (Research

Dept.)

" (Information

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- Private Secretary.
- Private Secretary.
- First Sea Lord.
- Mr. G.C.B. Dodds.
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- Mr. W. Graham.
- Air Commodore K.C. Buss.
- Mr. Rennie.
- Commander Evershed.

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F

INWARD TELEGRAM

INDEXED

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Cypher

FROM CYPRUS (O.A.G.)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 12th August, 1947.

R. 12th " " 15.10 hrs.

No. 431 Secret.

Addressed to High Commissioner Palestine, No. 390.
Repeated to C.-in-C. Mediterranean No. 391.
" " C.-in-C. Middle East Land Forces No. 11.
" " S. of S.

Reference your telegrams Nos. 160 and 161.

Transfer of illegal immigrants.

I note present position and am prepared to await outcome of negotiations with Jewish Agency, but any cessation of out-flow naturally causes me concern and I do not wish my failure to express objection to be interpreted as acceptance of possibility that transfers should cease, or that existing practice of allocating 50% of current ⁺(?quota) to (?camps) ⁺(corrupt group) Cyprus camps should be abandoned.

⁺ Corrections being obtained.

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- " " (M.I.3)
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- "
- Cabinet offices
- "
- Foreign office
- "
- Ministry of Defence
- "
- M.I.5
- Ministry of Transport
- Foreign office (Research Dept.)
- " (Information Policy Dept.)

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- Private Secretary
- Private Secretary
- First Sea Lord
- Mr. G.C.E. Dadds
- Private Secretary
- C.I.G.S.
- Lt. Col. J.G. Armstrong
- Lt. Col. W. Lloyd
- Private Secretary
- Chief of Air Staff
- Sir H. Brook
- Mr. T.A.G. Charlton
- Commander Evered
- Private Secretary
- Mr. C.G. Baxter
- Mr. Bell
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- Sir Henry Wilson
- Liaison Officer
- Mr. H. ...
- Mr. ...
- Mr. ...

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FO 371 / 61870

F 6156 / 651 / 21

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INWARD TELEGRAM

Code

FROM CYPRUS (O. A. G.)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 12th August, 1947.

R. 12th " " "

INDEXED

IMMEDIATE

No. 433 Confidential.

Addressed to the U. of U.
Repeated to High Commissioner
Palestine No. 394.

Your telegram No. 400 (No. 1805 to
Palestine.

Illegal Immigration

Similar reports appear in the local
press and are already current in the camps causing
apprehension amongst the detainees. If disorder is
to be avoided, early official statement is advisable.
On the assumption that press reports are to be confirmed,
I suggest that statement should be to the effect that the
withdrawal of the transports is consequent upon the
sabotage of those previously available, but that decision
implies no cancellation of the quota allocation to
Cyprus camps and that when the Jewish Agency can provide
ships, outstanding transfers can be arranged within
48 hours.

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Air Ministry
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Cabinet Offices

" "
Foreign Office

Ministry of Defence

" " "
" " "

M.I.5

Ministry of Transport

Foreign Office (Research Dept.)

" " (Information
Policy Dept.)

- P.S. to Prime Minister.
- Private Secretary.
- Private Secretary.
- First Sea Lord.
- Mr. G.C.B. Dodds.
- Private Secretary.
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- Lt. Col. J.G. Atkinson.
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- Private Secretary.
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- Private Secretary.
- Mr. C.W. Baxter.
- Mr. Beith.
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- Sir Henry Wilson Smith.
- Defence Registry.
- Mr. T.A. Robertson.
- Mr. W. Graham.
- Air Commodore K.C. Buss.
- Mr. Rennie.

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615-6/65, 21

INWARD TELEGRAM

Cypher (O. T. P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 12th August, 1947.

R. 12th " " 19.40 hrs. INDEXED

MOST IMMEDIATE
No. 1550 Secret.

Addressed to S. of S.
Repeated to Gov. Cyprus No. 164.

Cyprus telegram addressed to you No. 433 repeated
to Palestine No. 394.

Illegal Immigration.

No (repeat no) objection to issue of statement as
proposed, but in view of the nature of arrangements with the
Jewish Agency, I would suggest that the last part of the
statement be amended so as to read "and that as soon as
satisfactory arrangements can be made by the Jewish Agency
in respect of the necessary shipping, outstanding transfers
can be arranged at once." Grateful to be informed of time of
release of statement in Cyprus.

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14 AUG 1947

SECRETARY DEPT.

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War Office	- Private Secretary.
"	- C.I.O.S.
" " (M.O.4)	- Lt. Col. J.G. Atkinson.
" " (M.I.5)	- Lt. Col. W. Gore.
Air Ministry	- Private Secretary.
"	- Chief of Air Staff.
Cabinet Offices	- Sir N. Brook.
"	- Mr. T.A.G. Charlton.
"	- Commander Hvershed.
Foreign Office	- Private Secretary.
"	- Mr. C.W. Baxter.
"	- Mr. Beith.
Ministry of Defence	- Private Secretary.
"	- Sir Henry Wilson Smith.
"	- Defence Registry.
M.I.5	- Mr. T.A. Robertson.
Ministry of Transport	- Mr. W. Graham.
Foreign Office (Research Dept.)	- Air Commodore K.C. Buss.
" (Information	
" Policy Dept.)	- Mr. Rennie.

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615-6 / 657/21

mwE
37

INWARD TELEGRAM

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Cypher

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 12th August, 1947.

R. 12th " " 20.45 hrs.

INDEXED

IMPORTANT

No. 1548 Secret.

Addressed to Gov. Cyprus No. 162.
Repeated " S. of S.
" " C.-in-C. Mediterranean, No. 1136.
" " C.-in-C. M.E.L.F., No. 1137.
" " P.S.T.O. Mediterranean (C.-in-C. M.E.L.F. please pass as my telegram No. 1138).

My telegram No. 161.

Grateful if you will now arrange to send to Palestine as soon as possible in our own (repeat our own) shipping the 500 (repeat 500) orphaned children referred to in the second and third paragraphs of my telegram No. 160 to you repeated to S. of S.

2. I am informed that the ages of the children run up to 17 and I would, therefore, suggest very careful searches before embarkation.

3. Jewish Agency are being told officially that reliance is placed on them to ensure that no sabotage will be attempted during or following the transportation of these orphaned children.

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- Mr. C. (M.H.A.)
- Air Commodore H.A. O.S.
- Mr. Martin.

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6/16/65/21

38

INWARD TELEGRAM

Cypher (C.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 12th August, 1947.

R. 12th " " 21.00 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 1549 Secret.

INDEXED

Addressed to S. of S.
Repeated " Gov. Cyprus No. 163.

Your telegram No. 1503.

Illegal Immigration.

Please see my telegram No. 1128 to C. in C.
Mediterranean repeated to you as No. 1527.

In view of recent acts of sabotage culminating in damage to the EMPIRE LIFE GUARD and consequent serious reduction of lift available for carrying illegal immigrants from Palestine to Cyprus, I have reluctantly decided that, in present circumstances, it is inadvisable to expose our ships to further risks in Cyprus to Palestine service. This bar will not, however, apply to transport of orphaned children from Cyprus, and I am arranging now for this to be carried out in our ships as soon as possible. See my telegram addressed to Cyprus No. 162, repeated to you No. 1548.

2. I am keenly aware of possible reaction which may be caused in Cyprus by this decision and I am most unwilling to add to possible difficulties there. I trust, however, that delay will be purely temporary: I am now in communication with the Jewish Agency with regard to either

- (a) the charter by them of through shipping for service or
- (b) the devising of other means by which quota of /immigrants

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immigrants can be transported without risk to our own ships, which obviously must be safeguarded for the primary purpose mentioned in paragraph 1 above.

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6/16/65/21

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 mm 14/8

39

INWARD TELEGRAM

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM CYPRUS (O.A.G.)

TO S. OF S.. COLONIES.

D. 13th August, 1947.

R. 13th " " 12.55 hrs.

INDEXED

MOST IMMEDIATE

No. 435 Secret.

Addressed to S. of S.
 Repeated to High Commissioner, Palestine,
 No. 396.

Telegram from Palestine No. 1550 repeated
 to Cyprus No. 164.

Illegal Immigration.

On the assumption that you agree, I propose
 to issue statement amended as suggested by Palestine
 at 1000 hours tomorrow.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 23rd August, 1947.
R. 23rd " " . 20.05 hrs.

No. 1612

6156 671 ?1
27 AUG 1947

INDEXED

Addressed to S. of S.
Repeated to Gov. Cyprus, No. 176.

My telegrams Nos. 1549 and No. 1550.

Transport of quota immigrants from Cyprus.

In view of fact that Jewish Agency represented strongly that they were unable themselves to produce within a reasonable period any ship suitable for transport of these quota immigrants, and requested that our own ships be used under Agency's guarantee against sabotage, I have offered them temporarily the use of one corvette, provided that they would give a bond to make good cost of any damage or loss due to sabotage up to £100,000, and would also deposit a sum of £5,000 as surety. This they refused to do, reiterating that they were prepared to give verbal assurance and to send senior leading members of Agency actually to travel in ships. I was not prepared to accept this offer (especially as sabotage usually occurs when passengers have disembarked).

2. The Agency have this morning informed me that they are endeavouring to arrange charter of S.S. KEDMAH (New Jewish owned passenger vessel) and will report further in a few days.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

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E 616 / 651 / 71
30 AUG 1947
INDEXED

Cypher (O. T. P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 26th August, 1947.
R. 26th " " 21.30 hrs.

IMPORTANT
No. 1627

Addressed to Gov., Cyprus, No. 178.
Repeated to S. of S.

Your telegram No. 394 and connected correspondence.

Transport quota for immigrants.

Jewish Agency is ready to effect immediate charter of the EFTWANIA. This is a ship of approximately 1,000 tons registered under the Panamanian flag and presently lying at Beirut. She would carry without alteration about 100 immigrants in bunks and 50 on deck. There is no accommodation in the ship for guards.

2. One condition of charter stipulated by her owners is that she will operate with quick turn-round; they would prefer to load at Cyprus during the day, sail over to Haifa by night, unload and turn round during the following day, return to Cyprus by night and so on.

3. You may agree that, in view of the fact that immigrants will be checked and counted on board in Cyprus and checked and counted off again at Haifa, guarding during the voyage may be dispensed with.

4. Naval and Military authorities here have no objection to proposed charter. Should you also see no objection, Jewish Agency here will be asked to go ahead as soon as possible.

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- Mr. V. Graham, M.E.M.
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30 AUG 1947

INDEXED

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INWARD TELEGRAM

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 27th August, 1947.
R. 27th " " 19.45 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 1536 Secret.

Addressed to Gov., Cyprus, No. 180.
Repeated to S. of S.

My telegram No. 178 (repeated to S. of S. as No. 1627).

Shipping for transport of illegal immigrants from
Cyprus to Palestine.

I have just heard that Jewish Agency's option on
EPYRAALIA expires at noon 28th August (repeat 28th August) after
which time it will probably be impossible for them to charter
this vessel.

2. I should be glad therefore if you will let me know
by 10.00 hours local time on 28th August whether proposals in
my telegram are acceptable.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

11-17-47 43

PW

En Clair

FROM CYPRUS (C.A.G.)

D. 28th August, 1947.
R. 28th " " 12.10 hrs.

MOST IMMEDIATE

No. 466 Secret.

Addressed to High Commissioner, Palestine, No. 427.
Repeated to S. of S.

Your telegram No. 180 repeated to S. of S. No. 1636.

No objection.

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6/56/67/21
3 SEP 1947

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Cypher (O.T.P.)

INWARD TELEGRAM

FROM PALESTINE (O.A.G.)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 31st August, 1947.
R. 31st " " 19.40 hrs.

p.w.

MOST IMMEDIATE
No. 1654 Secret.

Addressed to Gov. Cyprus, No. 183.
Repeated to S. of S.

Your telegram No. 427 repeated to S. of S.
No. 456.

Transport of Illegal Settlers from Cyprus to
Palestine.

Have just been informed by the Agency that
EPHALIA will clear from Beirut today and expect to
arrive at Famagusta dawn tomorrow 1st September. Grateful
if you will inform me in due course of her e.t.a. Haifa
with immigrants.

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Cypher (O.T.P.)

INWARD TELEGRAM

FROM CYPRUS (O.A.G.)

6156 / 657 / 71 INDEXED

D. 1st September, 1947.
R. 1st " " 14.45 hrs.

IMMEDIATE.

No. 479.

Addressed to High Commissioner for Palestine No. 438.
Repeated to S. of S.

Your secret telegram No. 183 repeated to S. of S. No. 1654.
Illegal immigrants.

Belated advice has caused delay in arrangements and
EPHRAIA will not clear from Famagusta until tomorrow, Tuesday,
arriving at Haifa probably early Wednesday 3rd September. Precise
E.T.A. will be advised as soon as possible. Ship is inadequately
equipped and Agency's representative has requested issue of two
blankets for each of deck passengers and rations for journey. On
this occasion these are being issued against signature of Agency's
representative but you will presumably inform me in due course of
actual arrangement made with Agency.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

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TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher

6156 617 11
5 SEP 1947

INDEXED

FROM PALESTINE (O.A.G.)

D. 2nd September, 1947.

R. 2nd " " 13.05 hrs.

No. 1667A Secret.

Addressed to C.-in-C. Mediterranean, No. 1222.
Repeated to P.S.T.O. Mediterranean (C.-in-C.
M.E.L.F. please pass as my telegram
No. 1223).
" " S. of S.

Your telegrams 311922.

Transport of Jews from Cyprus to Palestine.

Jewish Agency have now arranged to charter at Beirut vessel named EFTHALIA which will carry 150 Jews per trip without guards on a shuttle service between Cyprus and Haifa. Vessel left Beirut 31st August to load first batch at Famagusta, whence she is expected to clear for Haifa 2nd September.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

36

6/16 6-1/31 INDEXED 47
W

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM CYPRUS (Lord Winster)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

8 SEP 1947

D. 4th September, 1947.

R. 4th " " 13.15 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 483 Top Secret.

Addressed to the S. of S.
Repeated to Palestine No. 449.

No. 2041.

Your telegram No. 457 repeated to Palestine

Jewish camps.

Possibility of mass outbreak was foreseen and appropriate measures to be taken were discussed by the Colonial Secretary with General McLean of General Headquarters Middle East Land Forces 27th August. Action to be taken in the event that military authorities decided that outbreak was likely was agreed. It was further arranged that G.H.Q. should inform me at once if they in fact anticipated trouble, in order that you should be advised. G.H.Q. have not yet intimated that they in fact anticipate mass disturbance in the immediate future, but all reasonable measures are being taken.

Distributed to:-/

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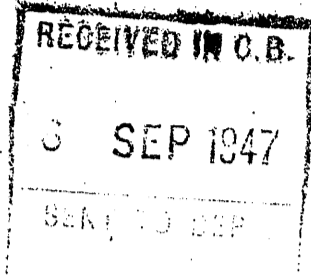
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COLONIAL OFFICE TELEGRAM

48

Cypher (O.T.P.)

6156 / 657 / 31

mw

FROM CYPRUS (O.A.G.)

8 SEP 1947 INDEXED

D. 4th September, 1947.
R. 4th " " 16.10 hrs.

IMPORTANT
No. 484 Secret.

Addressed to High Commissioner for Palestine, No. 45.
Repeated to S. of S.

Your telegram No. 178 repeated to the S. of S.
No. 1637.

Illegal Immigrants.

Agency have arranged with Master of EPTHALIA to carry
200 immigrants each voyage. This number will therefore be put
on board for voyage arriving Haifa tomorrow.

Copies sent to:-

No. 10 Downing Street
Lord President
Admiralty
"

War Office

" " (M.O.4)
" " (M.I.3)

M.I.5

Air Ministry

" "

Cabinet Offices

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" " (Information

" " Policy Dept.)

" " (Research Dept.)

Ministry of Defence

" "

" "

Ministry of Transport

- P.S. to Prime Minister.
- Private Secretary.
- Private Secretary.
- First Sea Lord.
- Mr. G.C.B. Dodds.
- Private Secretary.
- C.I.G.S.
- Lt. Col. M.M. Charteris.
- Lt. Col. D.W. Price.
- Mr. T.A. Robertson.
- Private Secretary.
- Chief of Air Staff.
- Sir M. Brook.
- Mr. T.A.G. Charlton.
- Commander Evershed.
- Private Secretary.
- Mr. C.W. Baxter.
- Mr. Beith.

- Mr. Rennie.
- Air Commodore K.C. Buss.
- Private Secretary.
- Sir Henry Wilson Smith.
- Defence Registry.
- Mr. W. Graham.

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Reference:-

FO

371

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INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES INDEXED

E 49
E 6156 / 65-1 / 31

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (O.A.G.)

D. 4th September, 1947
R. 4th " " 16.25 hrs.

No. 1680 Secret

Addressed to Gov. of Cyprus, No. 185.
Repeated to S. of S.

Your telegram No. 438 repeated to the S. of S.
No. 479.

Illegal immigration.

Jewish Agency states that they have been in negotiation with Khedive Mail Line for transport of immigrants from Cyprus to Palestine and that the Company is prepared to take 400 each trip as deck passengers on regular sailings of s.s. FOUADIEH in addition to normal complement of 1st and 2nd class passengers. This would be in addition to EPITHALIA. Question is being examined by Military and Police Authorities here, and I would be grateful for expression of your views on the proposal.

2. Agency have been informed that it will not (repeat not) in any case be possible to complete arrangements in time for the ship's calling at Famagusta scheduled for 5th September.

/Copies

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 - Ministry of Defence
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 - M.I.5.
 - Ministry of Transport
 - Foreign Office (Research Dept.)
- P.S. to Prime Minister
 - Private Secretary
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 - Private Secretary
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 - Sir N. Brook
 - Commander Evershed.
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 - Private Secretary
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 - Mr. Beith.
 - Mr. Rennie.
 - Private Secretary
 - Sir Henry Wilson Smith
 - Defence Registry
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 - Mr. W. Graham. M.B.E.,
 - Air Commodore K.C. Duce.

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COLONIAL OFFICE TELEGRAM

INDEXED

Cypher O.T.P.

FROM PALESTINE (O. A. G.)

D. 6th September, 1947.
R. 6th " " "

15.30 hrs.

IMPORTANT

No. 1686 Secret

Addressed to Governor of Cyprus No. 187.
Repeated to the S. of S.

I think you should know that, by extremely clever fabrication of travel documents, 663 illegal immigrants from Czecho-Slovakia have entered and are at large in Palestine.

2. It will be necessary to deduct this total of 663 from future immigration quotas. I am most unwilling to add to your present difficulties or to precipitate trouble in Cyprus, especially in view of S. of S's telegram No. 457 to you and in view also of deductions from Cyprus quota which have already been made and may in future have to be made from time to time. I feel however that it would be unduly harsh to penalise would-be legal immigrants from Europe by deducting all 663 certificates from European quota: if, therefore, you see no insuperable objection, I propose to deduct 332 certificates only from European quota, and balance of 331 from Cyprus quota for September - October.

3. The reason for these deductions would be publicised in Palestine.

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" " (M.I.3)

M.I.5

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- Mr. Beith.

- Mr. Rennie.
- Air Commodore K.O. Buss.
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- Defence Registry.
- Mr. W. Graham.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

INDEXED *ESI*

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

6/16 6/1 71

MW.

16 SEP 1947

Cypher (O.T.F.)

FROM CYPRUS (Lord Winster)

D. 8th September, 1947.

R. 9th " " 07.00 hrs.

No. 488

Addressed to High Commissioner for Palestine,
No. 459.

Repeated to S. of S.

Your telegram No. 185 repeated to the S. of S.
No. 1680.

Illegal immigration.

Understand from local agents that MEDIVIAL is
not (repeat not) prepared to take illegal immigrants
as deck passengers as proposed by the Jewish Agency.
I have not, therefore, completed examination of proposal.

/Copies

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 " "
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 Ministry of Defence
 " " "
 " " "
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 Ministry of Transport
 Foreign Office (Research Dept.)-

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 - Private Secretary
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 - Mr. G.C.B. Dodds
 - Private Secretary
 - C.I.G.S.
 - Lt. Col. M.M. Charteris
 - Lt. Col. D.W. Price
 - Private Secretary
 - Chief of Air Staff
 - Sir N. Brook
 - Commander Eyershed
 - Mr. T.A.G. Charlton
 - Private Secretary
 - Mr. O.W. Baxter
 - Mr. Beith
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 - Air Commodore K.C. Buss

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INWARD TELEGRAM

INDEXED

52

Cypher (O.T.P.)

E 6156 657 / 71
17 SEP 1947

FROM CYPRUS (Lord Winster)

TO S. OF S. COLONIES.

D. 10th September, 1947.

R. 10th " " 14.05 hrs.

IMPORTANT

No. 491 Top Secret.

Addressed to the S. of S.
Repeated to Palestine No. 460.

Your top secret telegram No. 460 repeated to
Palestine No. 2069.

As you assume, I have the strongest possible objection to the deviation of the Cyprus quota to any other source of immigration into Palestine. In addition to this suggestion, I have currently under consideration telegram No. 187 from Palestine repeated to you No. 1686 in which I am asked to forego 331 certificates for September - October quota. I would recall to you the importance which was attached to the allocation to Cyprus of the largest possible quota in correspondence exchanged with my predecessor at the time he agreed to accommodate Jews in Cyprus (ending with your telegram No. 464 of 29th October, 1946). Decision then made amounted in effect to an equal division of the quota between Cyprus and all other sources, and although it did not amount to a precise commitment in respect of future quotas, you are fully aware of the trouble that has followed upon any appreciable deviation from that principle. Although (vide your telegram No. 157 of 26th March 1947) I agreed to accept illegal immigrants to a greater maximum in order to meet pressing necessities with which you were faced, I could not have done so had there been any suggestion at that time that the quota allocated to Cyprus might be reduced. Indeed I consider the large number already in Cyprus more than justifies an increase in the local quota, and I cannot emphasize too strongly the importance I attach to the principle that the proportion allocated to Cyprus should be at least maintained and should not be attacked upon every occasion.

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occasion

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16 SEP 1947

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52A

occasion, circumstances elsewhere making desirable the special provision of certificates. I cannot accept the suggestion of High Commissioner of Palestine that the local quota should suffer because of the ability of immigrants from Czechoslovakia to secure entry into Palestine by means of forged documents, nor surely do I need to forecast the inevitable reaction in the Cyprus camps to any surrender to the French or Italian Governments of what detainees regard as their right, in favour of persons still in Europe who have not undertaken the hazards of attempts to enter Palestine illegally (I refer to their own conception of such voyages). Whether or not any adjustment is possible of the current allocation of certificates to persons elsewhere than in Cyprus, I am most strongly of the opinion that in neither (?cases) should the local allocation be penalized.

Distributed to:-

R. 243
Secretary of State
Sir T. Lloyd
Mr. I. Thomas
Sir S. Caine
Sir C. Jeffries
Mr. Holding
Mr. Martin
Foreign Office

Mr. Trafford Smith
Mr. Gutch
Mr. Mathieson
Mr. Higham
Mr. Bennett
Mr. Barton

- Mr. Beith.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

INDEXED

53

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (O.A.G.)

D. 10th September, 1947.
R. 10th " " 17.30 hrs.

IMMEDIATE
No. 1708 Secret.

Addressed to S. of S.
Repeated to Gov. Cyprus, No. 195.

My telegram No. 1549.

Today's Sunday press carries account of home-made bomb found in EMPIRE RIVAL at Hamburg. I should be glad to receive confirmation of this, and any further details as to how the bomb was planted or by whom, at your very earliest convenience, as in the light of this further attempt at sabotage it will be necessary to reconsider arrangements to bring over in our own corvettes second batch of orphan children from Cyprus.

/Copies

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"	-	Lt.Col.M.M. Charteris.
"	-	Lt.Col.D.W. Price
" (M.O.A.)	-	Mr. T.A. Robertson
" (M.I.3.)	-	Private Secretary
M.I.5.	-	Chief of Air Staff
Air Ministry	-	Sir N. Brock
"	-	Mr. T.A.G. Charlton
Cabinet Offices	-	Commander Evershed
"	-	Private Secretary
"	-	Mr. G.W. Baxter
Foreign Office	-	Mr. Beith
"	-	Mr. Rennie
" (Int. Policy Dept.)	-	Air Commodore K.C. Buss
" (Research Dept.)	-	Private Secretary
Ministry of Defence	-	Sir Henry Wilson Smith
"	-	Defence Registry
"	-	Mr. W. Graham, M.B.E.
Ministry of Transport	-	

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1851 1347

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INWARD TELEGRAM

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E

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher (C.T.F.)

FROM PALESTINE (O.A.G.)

D. 20th September, 1947.

R. 20th " " 14.20 hrs.

24 SEP 1947

No.1778 Secret

Addressed to Gov. Cyprus, No.204.
Repeated to S. of S.

My telegram No.1708 to Secretary of State repeated to you No.195.

Jewish Agency having given satisfactory guarantee against sabotage, it has now been agreed that corvettes will be used to bring the second batch of orphans to Palestine. They will load at Famagusta 22nd September and arrive at Haifa 23rd September.

Copies sent to:-

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"	- Lt.Col.D.W.Price.
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" (M.I.3.)	- Chief of Air Staff
Air Ministry	- Sir N. Brook
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" (Inf.Policy Dept)	

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56

1947

E

6450

Stamp
21 JUL 1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E6450/651/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No. Berlin
BGCC 10574

Dated } 30 June
Received in Registry } 21 July

Operation Grand National.

Addressed F.O.G.S. J.A.R.P. have ~~made~~
produced proposals to change the place
of embarkation for Operation Grand
National from Marseilles to Genoa.
Requests comments.

Last Paper.

E656
~~E655~~

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

5/2/47

(Index.)

14/7/47

Next Paper.

E6451

BOX RED

(Minutes.)

"This seems a very suspicious move, and may be linked up
with the 'President Warfield'. My instinct is to say 'No'!"

A. W. Wilkinson 4/7

Eastern Dept.

I do not understand this telegram. Miss
Appleby of Norfolk House told me that
the S.S. KEDMAH of the KEDM Palestine
line had already been chartered for
this purpose. She is now being repaired
at Antwerp and is then supposed to
sail to Marseilles to embark her passengers.
We have had reports that
some illegal immigrants might attempt
to join her at Marseilles and, for
that reason and because we get better
cooperation from the Italian than from
the French authorities, I should, if anything,
prefer Genoa as a port of embarkation
from the point of view of this Dept.

Julia
(S.E. ADL)

I see no particular reason to

4/7

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36A

to suspicious of this proposal. These
are legal immigrants, and we can
presumably check the parties at
each stage of their journey. C.O.,
however, should be consulted.

H.B. Berkeley 5/7

I see that a copy of this telegram has in fact gone to C.O., who will
no doubt wish to query this point with Germany.

Ans. 7/7

Now see E 6451

J. 2/7

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CLAIR

✓
INWARD TELEGRAM
3 JUL 1947

WR.
E 6450
21 JUL 1947

f.w. 57

WR 1204/

2 JUL 1947

FROM BERLIN TO FOREIGN OFFICE (GERMAN SECTION)

BGCC 10514

UNCLASSIFIED

30th June 1947

D 6.40 pm 30th June 1947

Repeated: Lemgo (PWDP)

R 8.20 pm 30th June 1947

Operation Grand National.

J.A.F.P. have produced proposals to change the place of embarkation for Operation Grand National from Marseilles to Genoa.

2. They maintain they have difficulty in chartering ships at Marseilles but can do this more easily in Italy from Genoa.

3. There do not appear to be any difficulties regarding land movement for such a change of port.

4. Arrangements for the movement of Jews in Grand National to Marseilles were negotiated by you and we consider that any change of procedure should be arranged by you as well.

5. May we have your comments please.

Action: Mr Edmond

Distribution: PS/Sir Gilmour Jenkins (2 copies)
PS/Mr Maurice Dean (2 copies)
German Educ Dept (6 copies)
German Internal Affairs (3 copies)
Mr Beith Eastern Dept Downing St,

War Office: Mr Keller M.I. 5

Colonial Office: Mr Trafford Smith
Mr Fitzgerald



6/317
3082
NW/RHR

Handwritten notes and signatures at the bottom of the page.

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22

E

58

E 6451

1947

TALESTINT

21 JUL 1947

Registry Number } E6451/651/31.
 FROM Miss Applebey
 F.O.G.S.
 No. 407. Beth.
 Dated 6/18/47.
 Received in Registry } 5 July.
 2. July.

Operation Grand National.
 Refers to B.G.C.C 10514 of 30th June (E6450/651/31).
 Has consulted C.C.G. on this matter & believes that
 the Jewish Agency will have to be given
 way to in it. They are having extreme
 difficulty in chartering a ship from Marseille.
 Requests F.O. agreement to Grand National being
 routed in future via Genoa.

Last Paper.

~~WR2501~~
E6450.

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)
 (Tel) Acabit Vienna 19/406.
 Rpt Berlin 6/16/47.
 (Tel) Berlin 533 Basic.
 Rpt Vienna 6/13/47.
 Weeks 745.
 Genoa Basic.
 (Tel) Rome 1555.
 Rpt Paris 1575.
 Genoa 47.
 Marseilles 86.
 16 July.
 2) Nottingham Co.
 9. Keller His.
 July 21

(Action completed.)
 (Index.)

TR 22/7
 TR 2/8 14/8/47

Next Paper.

E6655

(Minutes.)

I should be grateful for the comments of Eastern Dept on
 this problem (see also minutes on WR2501)
 A.W. Wilkinson 8/7

~~Eastern Dept~~

This letter was discussed at to-day's
 meeting of the Working Party on Illegal
 Immigration, which Miss Applebey attended.
 It was then agreed that there was
 no objection to this proposal from
 the standpoint of preventing illegal
 immigration. I think Rome should
 be warned that this change is
 imminent.

(CABLE)
10/7

I submit a dft del accordingly. Perhaps the word 'E' should be made 'E'?

~~Eastern Dept~~
~~WR2501~~

See suggested re-draft.

H. Bentley 14/7

I agree.

I have initialed me
 telegrams. Papers should now become E.
 Eastern Dept. + Trust E.B. Bentley 16.7
 P.T.O.

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58A

See within
Miss Appleby (7098) to Mr Cable
July 11th

7098 to Berlin no 533 Base
July 12th

Eastern Dept
Registrar

I agree that this particular
aspect of "Operation Grand National"
is the concern of Eastern Dept., because
this paper deals specifically with
its effect on Jewish illegal immigration

AMW 17/7
[Signature]
(CABLE)
18/7

See within:

A. CA/BQS (1) / 227 of 14th July, 1947.

[Signature]
21/7

Vienna tel PWDP/65/V of 25 July

[Signature]
30/7

London tel CCG 75-281 7/8.

U.N. (E) Dept.
AMW 14/8

[Signature]
12/8

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry
No.

WR 2552/286/48

59

AWW 12/7

Draft.

Despatched

M.

H M Ambassador

Rome

Telegram.

No

Repeat to

Paris No

Genoa No

Marseilles No

Saving
Saving

Date

Cypher

Sept. No 2

Eastern Dept

FOGS (Miss Affleck)

} find

copy to CO (Mr. Hingham)
M15 (Mr. Walker)

The Jewish Agency have proposed that legal emigrants ^{going} to Palestine under "Operation Grand National" should be embarked at Genoa instead of Marseilles because of the difficulty of chartering ships at the latter port.

~~This suggestion has been given careful consideration here and it was decided that there ^{is} no objection from the standpoint of preventing illegal traffic.~~

It is considered that there is no objection to this proposal from the standpoint of preventing illegal immigration and the Jewish Agency ~~are being informed accordingly.~~

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letter room

FOREIGN OFFICE.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

JHW

Telegrams : CONFOLK,
PICCY, LONDON.

Telephone : WHIttehall 4477 Ext. **244**

Our Reference : G.18/9

Your Reference :

NORFOLK HOUSE,

ST. JAMES'S SQUARE,

LONDON, S.W.1.

60

✓
~~SR 2552~~
7 JUL 1947

6th July 1947. **6451**

21 JUL 1947

URGENT

My Dear John.

I spoke to someone in your Office a day or two ago about BGCC 10514 from Berlin about changing the place of embarkation for operation Grand National from Marseilles to Genoa. At the time I proposed, with Colonel Solomon's support, to take the line that we should resist strongly any proposal from the Jewish Agency on these lines because the administrative difficulties of changing our route would be considerable, and because to send the transport through the American Zone (as we should have to do) would be asking for trouble.

I have now, however, seen an officer from Control Commission who has been in close touch with the Jewish Agency representatives in Germany, and I am inclined to think we shall have to give way.

The Jewish Agency are having very great difficulty in chartering a ship from Marseilles to take our legal emigrants to Palestine. The extent of their difficulties can be

/imagined

J. Beith, Esq.,

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RECEIVED
7 JUL 1947
SENT TO DEPT.
7 JUL 1947

imagined by the fact that there is a back-log of ¹²⁰⁰~~12,000~~ Jews in Hühne Camp ^{who are} documented and ready to depart but cannot go because there is no transport available. You can understand that this creates a very awkward problem for the Control Commission Authorities. I understand that an Agreement has been signed between the Jewish Agency and a shipping company called "The Adriatica" under which the Jewish Agency would make use of the Company's service from Genoa by Naples to Haifa which runs at frequent intervals. The Control Commission say that the administrative re-organisation which would be necessary to route Grand National travellers to Genoa instead of to Marseilles would not after all cause them very great embarrassment. They would be far less embarrassed by it in fact than by having to keep ^{12,000}~~12,000~~ excited Jews quiet at Hühne. They are also prepared to guarantee that the train to Genoa through the American Zones will be closely guarded and escorted and ~~certainly~~ every possible precaution will be taken to see that any attempt at illegal movement is frustrated.

In the circumstances I should be glad to have your agreement that Grand National may in future be routed through

/Genoa

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- 3 -

Genoa. I do not guarantee that there will not be one or two movements through France as the shipping situation dictates, but I think you can take it that in future the bulk of the movements will go through Genoa.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Higham of the Colonial Office with whom I have also discussed this problem, and I should be grateful for early remarks from the Colonial Office too.

I should be grateful if you could let me have a reply urgently as both the Jewish Agency and the Control Commission are anxious to put their plans into operation.

Yours ever,

Mary Applebey

M. F. APPLEBEY (Miss)

1	2	3	4	5	6

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Reference:-

FO

371

61870

W

Telegrams: CONFOLK,
PICCY, LONDON.

Telephone: WHItchall 4477 Ext. 244

Our Reference: G.18/9

Your Reference:

WR 2552 2586 48

16 JUL 1947

FOREIGN OFFICE,
NORFOLK HOUSE,

ST. JAMES'S SQUARE,
LONDON, S.W.1.

INDEXED

11th July, 1947.

*f.w.
WR (?)
62*

Dear Mr. Cable,

This is to remind you that as a result of yesterday's Meeting of the Illegal Immigration Working Party, you agreed to inform the Embassies in Paris and Rome of the change of route for operation Grand National from Marseilles to Genoa.

I have myself written to Ivor Pink in Berlin and told him that you are clearing the position with the Embassies so that his notifications to Rome will not be received with surprise. I have told him that since the new route will pass over French territory (The French Zone of Austria) I think his cables to Rome should be repeated to Paris. This may be an unnecessary precaution but I thought it was just worth while.

If there is any other point which I have not covered perhaps you will let me know.

Yours sincerely,

Mary H. Cable

J. E. Cable, Esq.,

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Reference:-

FO

371

61870

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CYPHER
(Paraphrasing
necessary)

6451/651/31

63

p.w.

21 JUL 1947
OUTWARD TELEGRAM

(This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on)

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE (GERMAN SECTION) TO BERLIN

No 533 Basic

SECRET

12th July 1947

IMMEDIATE

Repeated: Vienna G/317 D 12.30 pm 12th July 1947
Lubbecke) No 745
Lengo) Basic

GRAND NATIONAL

Reference BGCC 10514 of 30th June 1947.

We agree that the port of embarkation for Grand National should be changed from Marseilles to Genoa.

2. We have so informed the Jewish Agency in this country.
3. Arrangements are being made to notify Paris and Rome.
4. It is essential that escorts be provided and trains carefully guarded so that the risk of substitution of individuals etc. on the journey may be minimized.

Originator: Miss Applebey

Distribution: PS/Sir Gilmaur Jenkins (3 copies)

German Internal
Affairs Dept: Mr Morris Dean

Foreign Office: Mr Beith
Eastern Dept: Mr Cable

Colonial Office: Mr Traiford Smith
Mr Higham
Mr Matheson

G/317
12
RHR

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61870

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f. n. s. 64

6451 / 651 / 31

21 JUL 1947

FROM VIENNA TO FOREIGN OFFICE (GERMAN SECTION) & BERLIN

A. CA/BGS(1)/227

SECRET

IMMEDIATE

14 July 1947

D. 5.30 p.m. 14 July 1947
R. 0.25 a.m. 15 July 1947

Your 533 Basic 12 July 1947 to Bercomb repeated
Acabrit referring Grand National Bercomb reference BGCC 10514
of 30 Jun.

2. May we be informed immediately if this concerns us.

Action: Miss Appleby.

Distribution: PS/Sir Gilmour Jenkins (3 Copies)
Mr. Maurice Dean (3 Copies)
German Internal Affairs Dept.

Foreign Office: Mr Beith
Eastern Dept. Mr Cable

Colonial Office Mr Trafford Smith
Mr Higham
Mr Matheson

G/317
1513

AFR/ARH.

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61870

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry

No. *WR 2552/2105/48*

OUT FILE F. O.,

194

Despatched 4.15 P.M. 17/7
65

Draft.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Telegram.

No. *1555*

(Date) *June 16*

Repeat to:—

Paris 1575

Geneva 1575

Marseille 1575

~~En Clair.~~

Code.

Cypher.

Distribution:—

Dup. no 2.

H.B. 14/7

Copies to:—

C.O. (Mr. Higham)

M.I. 5 (Mr. Kellan)

For your information, it has been decided that legal immigrants travelling to Palestine under "Operation Grand National" are in future to embark at GENOA instead of at MARSEILLES.

2. ~~There does not appear~~ This change was requested by the Jewish Agency, who were having great difficulty in chartering a ship from MARSEILLES. There does not appear to be any objection to

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Reference:

FO

371

61870

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65A

it from the point of view of
preventing illegal immigration.

~~11/13~~ 16/7

16/7

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61870

OUT FILE

66

WR 2552/2186/48.
Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. 2

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO ROME

No. 1555

16th July, 1947. D. 4. 15 p.m. 17th July, 1947.

Repeated to Paris No. 1575
Genoa No. 47
Marseilles No. 86.

2 2 2 2

For your information, it has been decided that legal immigrants travelling to Palestine under "Operation Grand National" are in future to embark at Genoa instead of at Marseilles.

2. This change was requested by the Jewish Agency, who were having great difficulty in chartering a ship from Marseilles. There does not appear to be any objection to it from the point of view of preventing illegal immigration.

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CYPHER
(Paraphrasing
unnecessary)

6451 / 651 / 31

WR

67
J. Carter

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

(This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on)

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE (GERMAN SECTION) TO LACABRIT (VIENNA.)

A/406

SECRET

16th July 1947

IMMEDIATE

Repeated: Berlin No 699 Basic D 8.30 pm 16th July 1947

Your A.C./BGS (1) /1227 of 14th July concerning Operation GRAND NATIONAL.

If you are referring to the actual movement of trains through Austria from Germany en route to Genoa please contact Brigadier KENCHINGTON and make any necessary arrangements direct.

2. If you are referring to the question of the Austrian contingent, when agreed, joining any such trains in Austria now that these trains are to transit Austria perhaps you would advise us whether or not you wish us to take up with the High Commissioner for Palestine the allocation direct to Austria of whatever certificates it is eventually decided to grant Austria.

3. We are still awaiting a final decision on this question of allocating certificates to Austria. We shall however keep you advised.

Originator: Miss J Drake (G18/9)(2 copies)

Distribution: PS/Chancellor
PS/Sir Gilmour Jenkins (3 copies)
PS/Sir Oliver Harvey
PS/Mr Maurice Dean (2 copies)
German Refugee Dept (6 copies)

Foreign Office: German Internal Affairs (3 copies)
(Downing Street Mr Beith Eastern Dept
Mr Cable Eastern Dept

Colonial Office: Mr Trafford Smith
Mr Matheson
Mr Higham

A/406

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AM/RHR

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CYPHER
(paraphrasing
unnecessary)

E 6451 / 651 / 31

E PW. 68

INWARD TELEGRAM

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FROM VIENNA TO FOREIGN OFFICE (GERMAN SECTION)

INDEXED

PWDP/65/V

SECRET

INDEXED

25th July 1947

IMMEDIATE

Repeated Berlin

D. 11 am 25th July 1947

R. 10 pm 25th July 1947

Your A/406 dated 16th July.

Your paragraph 2. Desirable that pick up of the Austrian contingent joining German contingent as train passes through Austria.

2. Desirable to take up with the High Commissioner for Palestine the allocation of certificates direct.

3. May we have fuller details of scheme as information on this subject is scanty here.

Action. Miss J Drake (G18/9)(2 copies)

Distribution. PS/Chancellor
PS/Sir Gilmour Jenkins (3 copies)
PS/Sir Oliver Harvey
PS/Mr Maurice Dean (3 copies)
German Refugee Dept (6 copies)
German Internal Affairs (3 copies)
German Division (15 copies)
Mr Beith Eastern Dept
Mr Cable
Colonial Office. Mr Trafford Smith
Mr Matheson
Mr Higham

A/406
2602

HWS/JV



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Reference: FO 371 / 61870

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23

1947

E

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6655

PALESTINE

25 JUL 1947

Registry Number E6655/651/31.

FROM F.O. (German Section) No. minute

Dated 22 July Received in Registry 25 July

Operation Grand National.

Copy of F.O.G.S let 1272 Basic to Lubbecke. Ref F.O let 745 Basic (E6451/651/31). Given information received from Jewish Agency Paris concerning shipping available at Genoa & Marseilles.

Last Paper.

E6451

(Minutes.)

Now see E6738

[Signature] 28/7

References.

In P.P. F.O.G.S. let 2229 Basic to Lago 6/8.

(Print.)

U.N. (E) Defi.

[Signature] 12/8

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

[Signature] 2/8

(Index)

[Signature] 17/6/48

Next Paper.

E6738

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Reference: FO 371 / 61870

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CYPHER
(Paraphrasing
unnecessary)

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

(This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on)

6555 71
25 JUL 1947

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE (GERMAN SECTION) TO LUBBECKE

No 1272 BASIC

SECRET

22nd July 1947

IMMEDIATE

D 5.50 pm 22nd July 1947

Repeated: Berlin No 907 BASIC
Lemgo No 1272 BASIC

Operation GRAND NATIONAL.

Our No 745 BASIC repeated Berlin 533 BASIC of 12th July.

The following information has been received from the JEWISH AGENCY PARIS concerning shipping available Genoa and Marseilles; read left to right (a) Port (b) Date (c) Passages.

(a) Marseilles (b) 2/8 (c) 250. (a) Marseilles (b) 23/8 (c) 250. (a) Marseilles (b) 7/8 (c) 150. (a) Marseilles (b) 23/8 (c) 100. (a) Genoa (b) 6/8 (c) 150. (a) Genoa (b) 20/8 (c) 150. (a) Genoa (b) 7/8 (c) 250. (a) Genoa (b) 22/8 (c) 250. (a) Genoa (b) 14/8 (c) 250.

Total passages Marseilles 750. Total Genoa 1050.

2. Jewish Agency suggest following transports:-

(a) Marseilles one transport of 400 for the 7/8 sailing and one transport of 300 23/8.

(b) Two transports to Genoa for 6/8 and 14/8 respectively.

3. Jewish Agency has been advised to contact Lemgo direct to arrange details but we transmit above information for advance warning in view of nearness of move.

4. Please keep us advised of actual arrangements completed.

Originator: Miss J Drake (G18/9) (2 copies)

Distribution: PS/Chancellor
PS/Sir Gilmour Jenkins (3 copies)
PS/Sir Oliver Harvey
PS/Mr Maurice Dean (2 copies)
German Refugee Department (6 copies)
German Division (15 copies)
Mr Beith - Eastern Department
Mr Cable - Eastern Department

Colonial Office: Mr Trafford-Smith
Mr Matheson
Mr Higham

G/317
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GH

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Reference: FO 371 / 61870

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CYPHER
(Phrasing
necessary)

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

(This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on)

65 r. 65/??
8 AUG 1947

INDEXED

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE (GERMAN SECTION) TO LEMGO PWDP

No 2229 BASIC

SECRET

6th August 1947

IMMEDIATE

Repeated. Berlin No 1523 BASIC

D. 5 pm 6th August 1947

Operation Grand National.

1. Please ensure that in all future movements:-

(a) Berlin (Political Division) is given full advance warning of train timings because it is that Division which is responsible for notifying Paris and Rome of the movement. We should like to be put on the Distribution of any such telegram for information only. It is suggested that a tentative schedule could be given well in advance and that this might be confirmed nearer the start of the movement.

(b) The Jewish Agency understands that unless exact timings are given you 14 days in advance transit visas etc will not repeat not be ready in time for movement to take place. We will take up this point here too.

(c) Once movement has begun exact numbers despatched are signalled to us.

2. Please ensure that special attention is given to advance warning of Genoa movement since this is the first time this port is to be used.

ORIGINATOR. Miss Joan Drake G18/9

Distribution. PS/Chancellor
PS/Sir Gilmour Jenkins (3 copies)
PS/Sir Oliver Harvey
PS/Mr Maurice Dean (2 copies)
German Refugee Dept (6 copies)
German Internal Affairs (3 copies)
German Division (15 copies)
Mr Beith, Eastern Dept
Mr Cable, Eastern Dept

Colonial Office. Mr Trafford-Smith
Mr Matheson
Mr Higham

G/317

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AM/JWS

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group Fo

Class 371

Piece 61870

Following document(s) retained in the

Department of origin under Section 3 (4)

of the Public Records Act, 1958

E 6738/651/31

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References:-

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E 7423

1947

17 AUG 1947

Registry Number

E7423/651/31

FROM

Miss Drake

No.

F.O.S.

Dated

12 Aug

Received in Registry

14

Transmit Legal Immigration Act.
Transmit copy of letter from Mr. [unclear] to Lord Pemberton of July 16, in the attention of Immigration certificates per [unclear] in Transit A.P. in Europe.

Last Paper

6738

(Minutes.)

References

Lord Pemberton letter of 4 July within. Transmitt 26/8

[Signature]
(T.E. CABLE)
15/8

Cerman (Pol.) Sept. 7/11/47

18 Aug 27

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

[Signature] 10/9

(Index)

[Signature] 10/8

Next Paper

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61870

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COPY

4th July, 1947. 75

I refer to your letter of the 24th May about the allocation of certificates for immigration into Palestine and to our subsequent talk here with the Secretary of State.

We must now accept the position that of your total of 1,500 certificates per month half are pledged for the illegal immigrants in Cyprus, but I hope you will not mind my raising one or two points which we did not get an opportunity to discuss at the meeting.

First, you are I know, fully alive to the discouraging effect which the allocation to Cyprus has had on the more law abiding Jews in Europe who in particular are distressed that the genuine persecutees of Nazi oppression must now see an indefinite postponement of the day when they hoped to reach the promised land. We have every sympathy with these Jews, and I should like to ask whether you would consider a scheme for giving priority to ex inmates of concentration camps now in Cyprus without disturbing the total allocation. Such a concession would, I am sure, go some way to relieve the feelings of the other persecutees still in Europe.

Secondly, I understood that the principal reason why you feel it is impossible to disturb the existing allocation to Cyprus is that the granting of 750 certificates a month is now a regular feature so well known to the Cyprus Jews that any alteration of the figure would cause disturbances. I am also informed that at the present rate it would take about 20 months to clear the camps in Cyprus on the assumption that no further additions are made. During the same time and at the present rate we shall only have succeeded in disposing of about half of the inmates of the Jewish D.P. camps in our Zone of Germany. It follows, therefore, that there is a direct incentive both to these Jews as well as to those in the American Zone to carry on illegal immigration. If, however, an announcement were to be made that the 750 a month would only continue for as long as was necessary to clear the existing inmates of the Cyprus camps, and that thereafter the number would be reduced to say, 100 a month or some smaller figure, which would mean in effect that the waiting period in Cyprus would for any future illegal immigrants be very much longer, while the balance of certificates would be made available for Jews in Europe, we should not only succeed

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Reference:

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in increasing the hopes of the European Jews, but might well reduce illegal movement in a very substantial manner. Perhaps you would consider this suggestion. 76

Another suggestion that has been put forward is that the Palestine Government might be prepared to accept over and above the monthly quota a small contingent of say 300 orphan children who are now in Germany. This would dispose of one particularly distressing aspect of the D.P. problem. I understand that children used to be able to immigrate into Palestine without certificates.

In regard to the enquiry in your letter of the 24th May, I have considered what might be done in regard to Austria to which has now been added the French Zones of Germany and Austria to whom a token allocation of certificates has been promised. An allocation proportionate to the number of Jews in the various zones (leaving out the American Zone) would give roughly 50 certificates a month to the British Zone of Austria and a like number to the French. This would, however, cause in my view too great a reduction in the allocation to the British Zone of Germany which is already too small, and I propose, therefore, that the Austrian and French allocations should be 25 a month each until such time as you can see fit to increase the total. This is not a satisfactory arrangement, but is the best we can suggest in the present circumstances.

I will propose that if you agree to this allocation the selection of immigrants should be undertaken by the Jewish Agency according to the same principles as apply to the selection now being carried out in Germany, and that unless a more practicable arrangement can be suggested, the selected persons should be moved to the collecting camp at Bocholt for documentation and final preparation for the journey to Palestine. Under this arrangement the certificates will continue to be sent by the High Commissioner to the Passport Officer in Berlin. This arrangement should, I suggest, commence with the forthcoming allocations for July/August in respect of the French Zones, and with the present allocation for June/July in respect of Austria.

**The Rt. Hon. A. Creech Jones, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Colonial Office,
S. W. 1.**

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Confidential F

enter

77

FOREIGN OFFICE,
(German Section),
Norfolk House,
St. James's Square,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Date: 12.8.47.

To: J. C. S. BEECHER, Esq.
Eastern Department

Private
17420

Attached forwarded with the
Compliments of Miss Drake, G.3 (b).

Copy of Colonial Secretary's reply
as agreed by show. of.

600(e)

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Reference:

FO

371

61870

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Confidential.

COLONIAL OFFICE,

78

PERSONAL

DOWNING STREET, S.W.1.

16th July, 1947.

My Dear Frank,

Thank you for your letter of the 4th July about the allocation of immigration certificates for Palestine to Jewish displaced persons in Europe.

2. Let me deal first with your proposal that an announcement should be made that the release of 750 a month from Cyprus will only continue as long as necessary to clear the existing inmates of the camps and that thereafter the number will be reduced to 100 or some similar figure. As you know, I am not unminful of the fact that it can be urged that the fact that it can be urged that the present system of releases from the Cyprus camps offers a certain inducement to inmates of D.P. Camps in Europe to try their luck in the stream of illegal immigration; but

- This is not necessarily relevant.*
- (i) I find it difficult to believe that Jews would base their calculations on the assumption that the present monthly quota of 1,500 will remain unchanged for 20 months ahead. This quota has been approved in the existing circumstances in Palestine, pending a final decision. What that decision will be we do not know, but I hope that long before the 20 months are over, we shall have passed beyond the present phase.
- (ii) My principal concern at the moment is to ensure that I am in a position to cope with the numbers of illegal immigrants arriving in Cyprus in the next 6 months or so. After every effort to increase the potential capacity of the camps to a maximum, we are still barely in a position to provide accommodation for the estimated inflow up to the end of this year and I cannot possibly, at the moment, gamble on the chance that there will be a substantial reduction during this period. I personally doubt if any announcement on the lines you suggest would have any considerable effect on the volume of the illegal movement. It remains a possibility that the camps will, in fact, be unable to accommodate the number of arrivals, and I may actually be compelled to raise the question of approving an increase in the monthly release of 750 as the only way of meeting the situation.
- (iii) Lord Winster and the Cyprus Government have been extremely helpful in assisting me in dealing with this problem, but the presence of large numbers of inmates in the detention camps is a matter of the gravest administrative and political difficulty to them and I am under an obligation to clear these camps with the least possible delay. I cannot therefore, in view of the probability that illegal immigration will continue, agree to tie my hands by an undertaking to limit releases to 100 a month after the present inmates have gone. If I did that Cyprus could quite reasonably demur to the admission there of the still large balance of the number the Governor has agreed to take.

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Reference:-

FO

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3. Your suggestion that priority of release might be given to ex-inmates of concentration camps who are already in Cyprus would, I am afraid, have serious repercussions in the camps there and the practical difficulties of identifying those who would qualify under this category would be insuperable. There is already provision for giving some priority on compassionate grounds; but, owing to the difficulty of selection and the bitter feelings aroused by any interference with the "first in first out" principle, it has been found necessary to leave adjudication of such cases to the Jewish Agency.

4. You also suggest that the Palestine Government might be prepared to accept a small contingent of say 300 orphan children from Germany over and above the monthly quota. Here again I regret that I can see no possibility of admitting immigrants outside the quota. The Cabinet have felt that in the prevailing circumstances in Palestine no increase in the quota can be conceded. I share your desire to see these children removed as soon as possible from the distressing surroundings of the camps and I have just approved an arrangement whereby certain orphans in Cyprus will be admitted immediately to Palestine, on the understanding that they will be cared for there under a scheme prepared by the Jewish Agency and that they will be deducted from future quotas when their turn comes round. In the case of the children in Germany, since there is at present no order of priority, there could be no question of deduction from future quotas on these lines and in all the circumstances I feel only able to suggest to you that perhaps you could try to arrange, in fixing the composition of the monthly contingents released from your camps, that a special priority is given to the children.

5. I regret that I can write to you no more helpful a letter than this. I know your anxieties in this matter and wish it were possible for me to make some contribution to the solution of your perplexing problem. But with the best will in the world I cannot give you any satisfactory answer to your requests.

6. I am telegraphing to the High Commissioner regarding your proposals for the allocation of a small number of certificates monthly to Jews in the British zone of Austria and in the French zones of Austria and Germany and will send you a further answer on this point when I have his reply.

Yours

(Sgd.) A. Creech-Jones.

The Lord Pakenham.

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61870

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E 7502

16 AUG 1947

PALESTINE

Legal Immigration Airtel

Report of suggestions made recently about total quota of immigration certificates for Palestine allocated to French should be 2500 worth take per instructions.

Registry Number

E7502/657/31

FROM

40.E.S.

No.

1101/1/47

Dated

27/8/47

Received in Registry

9/18/47
29/8/47
31

Last Paper.

W. Smith
E 7423

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

7/6/48

(Index.)

14/8/48

Next Paper.

7809

(Minutes.)

Eastern Dept might prefer to take these papers. I don't think there is a real WR interest. W. Smith. E.B. [unclear] 1/8

I agree that this should be E. See E 6155/48/31 & drafts JB Aug 2nd

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Reference

FO

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IHW

Telegrams: CONFOLK,
PICCY, LONDON.

Telephone: WHItchall 4477 Ext.

Our Reference: G.18/9

Your Reference:

FOREIGN OFFICE,
NORFOLK HOUSE,
ST. JAMES'S SQUARE,

LONDON, S.W.1.

29th July, 1947

entced WR 81
So on

~~WR 2930~~
21 JUL 1947

My Dear John,

You will remember that when we recently put up a letter for the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to send to Mr. Creech Jones we made a suggestion that the total quota of immigration certificates ^{for Palestine} to be allocated to the French following your recent negotiations in Paris, should be 25 a month.

We have now heard from the Colonial Office that the High Commissioner in Palestine is prepared to agree to this figure.

I should be grateful for your advice as to how we are to proceed. I believe you felt that since your negotiations had taken place in Paris the figure of 25 should be communicated to the French Government by the Embassy in Paris before any notification to Germany or to the press is made. I am quite prepared to approach the French in this way and should be grateful if you would notify the Embassy in Paris accordingly, and would keep me in touch with developments so that

/I can

J.G.S. Beith, Esq.,

E 7502
16 AUG 1947

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61870

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1947

PALESTINE

E 7809

25 AUG 1947

Registry Number } E 7809/651/31
 TELEGRAM FROM }
 Military Govt
 No. }
 Berlin
 Dated }
 Received in Registry } 1238
 28 Aug
 25

INTERNATIONAL

Party numbering 480 Leave British Home Aug 26, arriving Forbach evening same day. Also Leave Marseilles on SS. "RENA" "CIRENIA" and "KEONIA" on Aug 27, 30 and Sept 4 respectively.

ADDRESSED PARIS 124

Last Paper.

7502

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

German (Refugee) Dept.

We were informed on the 26 of August that the actual number who left was 486. The third ship is the KEONIA. Thank you. Joan Drake 28/8/47.

[Signature] 25/8

[Signature] 29/8

(Action completed.)

[Signature] 28/8

(Index.)

[Signature] 28/8

Next Paper.

8591

32003 F.O.P.

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1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: FO 371 / 61870

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E 7809

E 83

25 AUG 1947

En Clair

DEPARTMENTAL NO.2

FROM BERLIN TO PARIS
(From Military Governor)

D.2. 0 p.m. 23rd August, 1947.

No.124

23rd August, 1947.

R.1.50 p.m. 23rd August, 1947.

Repeated to Rome

Foreign Office No.1238

B B B B

Operation Grand National.

Party numbering 480 leaves British Zone on August 26th arriving Ferbach evening of same day. Due to leave Marseilles in s.s. "Rena", "Cirenia" and "Keoma" on August 27th, August 30th and September 4th respectively.

Foreign Office please pass Paris and Rome as my telegrams No.124 and 18.

[Repeated to Paris Embassy and Rome]

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Piece61670

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E8591/651/31

and closed until.....1998

*delete as necessary

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Reference:-

FO

371 / 61870

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E

E 9357

9 OCT

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E 9357/657/31

FROM

Embassy

No.

Proque

Dated

25 H

Received in Registry

3 Oct

9 -

Palestine, Czechoslovakians, Illegal Entry.

Copy of memo 16/H, MA/201/47 to Czechoslovak
Ministry of National Defense dated 3 Oct.
stating that certificates issued to persons
arrested & have enlisted in Czechoslovak or British
armed forces in Palestine, were subsequently
employed for a fraudulent purpose by persons
to whom they were entrusted, i.e. Illegal Immigrants

Last Paper

9028

References

6156/657/31

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8, Mr Mathison C.O.
+1, for transmission
to H/C, P's Head
✓ Oct. 23

(Action completed)

PE/623/10

(Index)

10/2/48

Next Paper

E 9478

(Minutes.)

Copies to C.O. (for Mr. Mathison and
High Commissioner) for Palestine)

9/10

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Reference: FO 371 / 61870

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E 86

HIS Majesty's **Ambassador** at **Prague**
presents his compliments to **H.M.P.S.S.F.A.**
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British **Embassy**,

..... **Prague**,

E 9357
9 OCT
3rd October, 1947.

Reference to previous correspondence:
Telegram No. 211 Saving of Sept. 8th from the
High Commissioner for Palestine to the Secretary of State
~~for the Colonies.~~ Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
<p>To: Czechoslovak Ministry of National Defence.</p> <p>Ref: MA/201/47</p> <p>Dated: 3.10.1947.</p>	<p>Illegal immigration from Czechoslovakia to Palestine.</p>

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Reference: **FO**
371 / 61870

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3rd October, 1947.

MA/201/47.

Memorandum No. 1614.

The Czechoslovak Ministry of National Defence,
General Staff, 2nd Department,
Prague.

You will remember that on June 5th last you issued three travel documents each containing a list of persons whom you certified to have enlisted in the Czechoslovak or British Armed Forces in Palestine and as being therefore entitled to exemption from the Palestine Immigration Ordinance under the provisions of Exemption Order No. 12 of 1946. I am sorry to have to tell you that these documents were subsequently employed for a fraudulent purpose by the persons to whom they were entrusted, and since the misuse of documents issued under your authority must be a matter of serious concern to you, I feel it my duty to inform you of the facts of the case such as they have been brought to light by the British and Palestinian Authorities.

2. The documents were first brought to my office by a representative of the Ministry of the Interior and I endorsed them to the effect that you had assured me that the persons enumerated in them were eligible for repatriation to and release in Palestine under the Exemption Order in question. The documents were then visaed, on the 17th June, by the Visa Section of this Embassy as valid for entry to Palestine before 30th June, after twenty persons selected at random from the names in the lists had been required to attend at the Visa Section and to give proof of their bona fides. But shortly before the arrival in Palestine of the three ships containing the persons supposedly covered by these travel documents the authorities in Palestine received information to the effect that few of them were genuinely entitled to exemption. On arrival of the ships the documents were therefore withdrawn and each head of a family was issued with a certificate of arrival endorsed for one month's stay in Palestine, and instructed to report to one of the offices of the Department of Migration to apply for registration as an immigrant under the terms of the Exemption Order. The Immigration Officers were warned closely to interrogate each applicant with the object of ensuring that each proved his identity, his marriage, and that the children immigrating with him were, in fact, his children. As a result of these instructions only 42 heads of families with 31 dependants came forward in the allotted time and having satisfactorily proved their identity were registered under the exemption order. All the persons had Czechoslovak Passports and evidence of Czechoslovak nationality. The balance of 663 persons never turned up at all and are therefore now in Palestine illegally. There is little doubt that few, if any, of these persons were entitled to enter Palestine at all and that they assumed the /identity

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- 2 -

identity of others named in the documents issued by you. One of them in fact subsequently applied to the Czechoslovak Consul-General for a passport to return to Czechoslovakia and stated openly that he had assumed the identity of a person named in one of the documents.

3. On the 17th June when the documents were viewed by the Visa Section all the 736 persons of the original group named in them must have been physically assembled in or near Prague. If this had not been the case it is unlikely that the 20 chosen at random for personal interviews would have been able to present themselves and successfully answer the questionnaires attributed to them. On the 28th, 29th and 30th June, however, three ships arrived in Palestine carrying a group of 736 persons composed almost entirely differently from the original group but carrying the travel documents made out in favour of the latter.

4. The whole operation was on such a large scale and must have been so carefully worked out beforehand as to leave little doubt that it was planned before you issued the documents. Since you have evidently been made the unwitting instruments of a particularly gross form of deception, I feel that you may wish to institute the most rigorous enquiries both among the persons who asked you to provide the travel documents and among those into whose charge the documents were delivered. You may also like to consider the confidences of questioning the members of the original group of persons named in the documents, many of whom must still be in Prague and most of whom must have been cognisant of the plot.

5. Needless to say I should be very glad to give you all the help in my power in pursuing these enquiries and I should be very interested to learn the result.

(sd) P.A. MORRILL. Maj. GS

for Colonel,
Military Attaché,
~~British Embassy in Czechoslovakia.~~

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89

PALESTINE

13 OCT

Registry Number

F9478/15131

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

Sir A. Odgers (New York)

2868

10 Oct.

13 Oct.

Jewish children - Cyprus
Addressed Cyprus Lot 1 of Oct 10?
requesting account of conditions under which Jewish children are kept in ~~Prison~~ Cyprus.

Last Paper.

9357

(Minutes.)

3 pp.

Now see E9479

Jy 14/10

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

G. E. M. 14/10

(Index)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

9479

32008 F.O.P.

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference:

FO

371

61870

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E 910

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

(From United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations)
Sir A Cadogan
No.2868 D: 2.18 a.m. 11th October, 1947
10th October, 1947 R: 8.40 a.m. 11th October, 1947.

IMPORTANT.

Please pass to Cyprus, Jerusalem and Colonial Office.

[Begins].

Secret.

E 2872
13 OCT

Addressed to Governor of Cyprus No.1 of 10/10/47 repeated Colonial Office and Palestine No.85.

Following for Commissioner of Jewish Camps Panagusta telegram No. 2 of 10/10/47.

[Begins].

Additional information requested in my enclair telegram No.1. is required in connexion with resolution submitted by delegation of Uruguay to the ad hoc Committee on the Palestinian question in which he refers to the "utterly inhuman conditions in which Jewish children now in D.P. camps or in the island of Cyprus are now living with imminent danger to their lives or their shattered physique and morale".

2. Please send in addition to the information asked for in my enclair telegram a brief account of conditions under which the children in the Cyprus camps are accommodated, with particulars of facilities for education and recreation and any other relevant observations.

[Ends].

[Copies sent to Colonial Office for action and for repetition to Cyprus and Jerusalem].

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1947

PALESTINE

13 OCT

Registry Number

F 9479/651/51

TELEGRAM FROM

U.K. Del

No.

(New York)

Dated

2869

Received in Registry

10 Oct.

13 Oct.

Jewish children - Cyprus.
Addressed. H.C. for Palestine to 86.
7 Oct. 10 enquiring whether it is
proposed to transfer all orphans
in Cyprus in Cyprus to Palestine in
advance of the monthly quotas.

Last Paper.

9478

(Minutes.)

These are all addressed to
e.o., Cyprus and Palestine.

References.

[Signature]
17/10

JB Oct. 14

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

[Signature]

(Index.)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

9494

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References:

FO

371

61870

Cypher/OTP.

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

92

E

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

(From United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations).

No. 2869. D. 2.30 a.m. 11th October 1947.
10th October 1947. R. 8.58 a.m. 11th October 1947.

IMPORTANT.

E 278
13 OCT

Please pass to Jerusalem and Colonial Office.

[Begins]

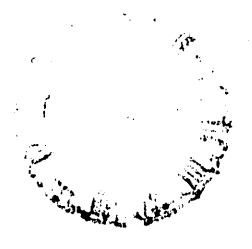
Addressed to High Commissioner for Palestine telegram No. 86 of 10th October 1947 repeated to Colonial Office.

Commissioner of Jewish camps Famagusta has reported that number of Jewish illegal immigrants received into Cyprus camps since 1st October includes 683 children. In connexion with Uruguay Resolution to which reference is made in my telegram No.1 to Governor of Cyprus I shall be grateful if you will inform me by telegram whether it is your intention to transfer to Palestine, as further advances on monthly quotas, all orphans among children recently arrived in Cyprus and also any included in future shiploads of illegal immigrants. Such transfers would, I assume, be effected as soon as sea transport is available, provided you were satisfied that adequate arrangements for reception and care in Palestine had been made by the Jewish Agency.

[Ends].

[Copies sent to Colonial Office for action and for repetition to Jerusalem.]

W:W:W:W:W



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E 0494

93

1947

PALESTINE

13 OCT

Registry Number

F 9294/05-1/2

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

W. K. Sel
(New York)
286
10 Oct.
13 Oct.

Jewish children - Cyprus
Telegram to Commissioner of Jewish
Camps, Janagusta, Cyprus Is.
regarding numbers of children -
Camps - Cyprus.

Last Paper.

9479

(Minutes.)

now no E9479

[Signature]
14/10

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

[Handwritten signatures and dates]
6/14/48
7/14/48

Next Paper.

10215

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Reference: FO 371 / 61870

En clair

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1. 94

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE. E

(From United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations).

No. 2867.
10th October 1947.

D. 1.40 a.m. 10th October 1947.
R. 8.00 a.m. 10th October 1947.

IMPORTANT. E 9

Please pass to Famagusta, Jerusalem and
Colonial Office. [Begins].

Addressed Commissioner of Jewish Camps
Famagusta Cyprus No. 1 of 10th October repeated
Colonial Office and Palestine No. 84.

Following from MacGillivray.

Thank you for figures contained in your
telegram No. 5. I shall be grateful to receive
by telegram following additional information (a)
breakdown of 829 children in camps on 1st. October
into three age groups (1) under 12 months, (2)
from one to 6 years and (3) from 7 to 17 years.

(b) Whether children in camps on 1st.
October included any orphans and if so how many
and reasons for their not having been transferred
to Palestine.

(c) Number of orphans and other children
already transferred to Palestine in advance of
quotas and dates of such transfers.

[Copies sent to Telegram Section Colonial
Office for action and for transmission to Famagusta
and Jerusalem].

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Reference:-

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1947

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95

10533
11 NOV

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E10533/651/31

TELEGRAM FROM

U.K. Del

No.

New York

Dated

3289

Received in Registry

10 Nov

11

Palestine Population Bedouin

Discusses Bedouin population in Beersheba, the increase from 48,000 in 1931 to 92,000 in 1946 is attributed in part (to extent of 20 per cent of 1931 figure) to underestimation of 1931 census and in part to natural increase. Also notes information that underestimation of Bedouin population of Beersheba in 1931 applied also to Bedouin population of rest of Palestine, and that it is not unreasonable to assume total on 127,000.

Last Paper.

10215-

(Minutes.)

JB MW. 11

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, Mathiason. C.C.
M-13a
M 04
Admty
G.M.
✓ Nov. 11

(Action completed.)

J.E.M. 11/11

(Index.)

17/11/48

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11096

97

26 NOV

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

EN1096/651/31

FROM

P.O.

No.

Forward

Dated

20 Nov

Received in Registry

26 -

Children to Palestine

60. Et 2894 20 Nov. Mr. Fox asked that consideration be given to possibility of arranging for the admission into Palestine of 400 Jewish children at present in the British zone in order of British Laissez-passer, a suitable number of certificates should be deducted monthly from quota until the scheme is closed.

Last Paper

10666

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

J.L. 16/12

(Index)

[Handwritten signature]

Next Paper

(Minutes.)

This presumably refers to some request by German (Refugee) Dept.

[Signature]
(RECHABLE)

3/12

German (Ref.) Dept.

Yes JB Dec. 4

In P.P. P'ster Et 2293 1/12.

Yes. Refugee Department is protesting against the discrimination against the orphan children because the decision ~~to~~ to withdraw. They are waiting, ready in Camps leave January

9.12.47. Joan Drake

JB Dec. 16

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Reference:

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INWARD TELEGRAM

99
KND

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

11096 651 21

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 1st December, 1947.
R. 1st " " 13.30 hrs.

IMPORTANT

No. 2293 Secret.

Your telegram No. 2894.

Immigration.

I regard consideration adduced in second paragraph of your telegram as conclusive, so long as present jurisdiction persists. I therefore regret that I cannot see my way to meeting the Foreign Office request.

Copies sent to:-

Foreign Office (Portfolk House) - Mr. Eving.
" " " " - Mr. Beth.

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Reference:

FO

371

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